FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SIGNING SET FOR 'CARIBBEAN ACTION PLAN'

FL2222139 Bridgetown CANA in English 1926 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 22, CANA -- Some 30 Caribbean countries will tomorrow declare war on a modern plague, which, like the pirates of centuries past, is a serious threat to trade and progress in the area.

The modern plague is "poverty, misery, ignorance, injustice, violence and pollution", said Jamaica's mining and energy minister, Basil Buck.

Representatives of 30 governments will sign in Cartagena, Colombia, an agreement creating the "Caribbean action plan" to promote integrated development, based on the rational use of environmental resources.

Sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the plan unites both industrialised and developing countries, market and centrally planned economies and governments of all persuasions.

Signatories will include the United States, Mexico, all Central American countries, which still have territorial associations in the region; France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

The action plan includes 66 projects. Of these, 14 are of common interest to all signatory countries and four are to be undertaken immediately.

The action plan promotes integrated development that will stand up to the "modern pirates" identified by Basil Buck, and that will guard against environmental destruction.

Though it may be true that damage to the Caribbean environment falls far short of the dramatic proportions reached in other parts of the world, evidence shows that narrowing this difference is only a matter of time if precautions are not taken to ensure "development without destruction."

Pollution indices exceeding those for the Mediterranean have been detected in areas of industrial concentration, especially near oil and seafood industries.

Caribbean waters are crossed day and night by oil tankers and ships enroute to and from the Panama Canal.

In addition, the United States' huge Mississippi River empties its polluted waters into the basin. Uncontrolled forest exploitation has caused soil erosion on large tracts of once fertile land and threatens others.

The need to overcome the poverty and underdevelopment characteristic of most of these countries gives the action plan its radical character. The object is not to solve development problems, but to promote development that anticipates these problems.

The four projects currently underway concern oil spills, tropical forests, development and support for national environmental organisations and educational and training programmes.

The first project deals with emergency measures to prevent oil spills and control shipping traffic.

The second sets guidelines for hydrographic basins, including flood, erosion and sedimentation control. It is designed to conserve animal and plant environments along the rivers.

The third project involves developing and strengthening national institutions, improving health services and quality control of water resources.

The fourth project concerns environmental education and is divided into three parts: development of course material for secondary schools; training of professionals in conservation methods; and development of educational programmes at all social levels to promote public awareness of environment problems.

Putting the plan into effect will be a big step forward. However, according to UNEP Executive Director Mostafa Tolba, it will not solve all environment and development problems.

"The efforts of each of these countries and a strong spirit of cooperation on the part of those who wish to safeguard their national heritage," he says, "is vital."

CGT CALLS NATIONAL PROTEST STRIKES 28 MAR

Marches Set for 30 Mar

PY231520 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1143 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (DYN) -- The General Labor Confederation Azopardo [CGT-Azopardo] has decided to carry out a 24-hour national strike on Monday, 28 March. The CGT-Brasil has also decided to call a similar strike for the same day and it has also decided to organize a protest march to Plaza de Mayo on 30 March.

The two labor centrals decided last night to call the strikes, in order to protest the lack of an answer to the urgent demands for an increase in wages, without waiting for the outcome of the meeting of the economic and social cabinet, which will presumably take place this afternoon. During the course of this meeting the government could presumably order a wage increase, which would be much lower than the increase that has been asked for by the unions.

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the march to Plaza de Mayo, which was strongly repressed by the government of the then President Leopoldo Galtieri, that was carried out 3 days before the Malvinas landing, the "hardline" CGT-Brasil has decided to organize a similar mobilization, which will start with the stopping of all work throughout the whole of greater Buenos Aires and with the gathering of workers at 1700 [2000 GMT] in front of Government House.

Ubaldini Supports Rally Plans

PY232218 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] The CGT [General Labor Confederation] faction led by Saul Ubaldini has decided to stage rallies in Buenos Aires and in other rural cities on 30 March 1983.

ECONOMY MINISTER RETURNS FROM IDB MEETING

PY231118 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe arrived last night at Ezeiza airport. He returned from Panama, where he attended the meeting of IDB governors that is being held in that country.

Denies Making New Loan Request

PY240210 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Mar 83 p 11

[Text] Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe yesterday denied that Argentina was seeking a new briding loan from international banking consortia and that wages would be increased less than 15 percent. Speaking at Ezeiza international airport last night just after arriving from Panama, Wehbe also said that the wage increase matter would be dealt with in the cabinet meeting of the socio-economic team this week. Wehbe had met with representatives of the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) in Panama. The minister said that he did not have any "important news" resulting from his trip and that he did not run into any major problems in the international transactions that Argentina was conducting.

NINE BILLION PESOS ADVANCED ON PARTY SUBSIDY

PY230149 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 Mar 83 p 11

[Text] (DYN-NA) -- The government gave over nine billion (thousand million) pesos to 27 national and provincial political parties as an advance on the funds per enrollment which they are due according to the political parties statute, it was announced yesterday.

Each party receives 30 thousand pesos per member and the government decided to advance the funds based on the recognition requirements. A party in the federal capital, for instance, needs 8,000 enrollments to be recognized so they were given 240 million pesos, but some parties decided not to accept the money as they felt that they may not achieve the minimum enrollments.

The parties which have so far received the most are the Christian Democrat Party and the Integration and Development Movement (MID) with around one billion each. The Radical Party is in third place and the Justicialist Party in eigth place.

AIR FORCE COMMUNIQUE ON WAR DECORATIONS

PY231146 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2021 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (NA) -- The Air Force explained today why the executive branch did not include Air Force personnel in the various decorations for heroism and bravery in combat. It has been decided to decorate only those Air Force personnel that were killed or wounded during the Malvinas war.

The communique released by the Air Force commander in chief reads as follows:

"In accordance with the provisions of decree no 577 approved on 21 March 1983, the Argentine Air Force makes known to the people that Air Force personnel will not be decorated with the Cross of the Argentine Nation for Heroism in Combat and with the Medal of the Argentine Nation for Valor in Combat, because it has been decided that only those Air Force personnel killed or wounded in combat will be decorated. This is a position endorsed by the Air Force and agreed to by the other branches in a joint discussion of the issue.

"Aside from this, the Argentine Air Force will decorate the flags of the units that participated in the South Atlantic conflict, thus consolidating the Argentine people's recognition of the courage of its fighters and the sacrifice of their men in defense of the dignity of our fatherland."

SPECIAL COMMISSION FOR FLOOD RELIEF APPOINTED

PY232142 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Government House report]

[Excerpt] The executive branch has declared as disaster areas the territories of the provinces that are being hit by floods. A special commission has been appointed for the purpose of evaluating the assistance that the government must render to each province. The commission, to be presided over by the interior minister, will be made up of officials from the Ministries of Economy, Defense, Public Works, Public Health, Social Action and of the governments of the provinces affected by the floods.

CHILEAN RELATIONS SCORED ON ANNUAL DIA DEL MAR

Velarde Conditions Renewal of Ties

PY231311 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Mario Velarde Dorado has said during a press conference that Bolivia will not renew diplomatic relations with Chile unless Chile makes a prior commitment to discuss a solution to the great Bolivian sea outlet, a cause which is no longer a continental but a world cause as has been determined by a declaration of chiefs of state or governments of the countries of the Nonaligned Movement.

He said that Bolivia is not and has never been a landlocked country, that Bolivia, as everyone knows, was deprived of its seacoast by the Chilean aggressor with the help of British imperialism. At the start of the press conference the minister was asked by a reporter about the measures his ministry was taking to implement the OAS resolution calling for negotiations between the two countries to find a solution to the Bolivian problem. Velarde's answer was categorical: We do not have relations with Chile. Your answer is related to the Chilean position but the basic problem is that all the bilateral treaties were to no avail since negotiations were carried out from 1904 to 1962 when relations were normal and even friendly.

Siles, Paz Attend Special Session

PY240231 [Editorial Report] La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish at 2325 GMT on 23 March begins carrying a live report from the legislative palace where the Bolivian Congress is holding a special session to honor the memory of Eduardo Abaroa, hero of the Battle of Calama. President Hernan Siles Zuazo, Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora, the members of the cabinet, the diplomatic corps, representatives of the church and other national dignitaries are present.

The first speaker is Julio Garret Ayllon, president of the Senate and representative of the National Revolutionary Movement. In his 13-minute statement Garret Ayllon emphasizes that Chile will not return the sea outlet to Bolivia "as long as it feels that the balance of power in the Pacific is on its side." He urges joining forces with Peru and to work for the strengthening of Bolivia as a power.

The next to speak is Jorge Arias, Nationalist Democratic Action deputy. In his 13-minute speech he stressed that continental integration is a sure way toward a solution of Bolivia's landlocked situation and calls upon all Bolivians to work for the firming up of Bolivia's economic standing, for the strengthening of democracy and of nationalism.

Carlos Perez, deputy for the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left, praises the government's efforts in its quest for international support and Abraham Salas, deputy of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left calls upon the government and the Congress to propose concrete solutions capable of uniting all Bolivians.

Bolivian Communist Party Deputy Marcos Domic scores, in his 7-minute statement, "oligarchic solutions" such as the Charana embrace between Hugo Banzer Suarez and Augusto Pinochet. Domic blames the loss of the sea outlet on the greediness of international powers and reaffirms that the Bolivian Communist Party's position is opposed to territorial concessions and in favor of a tripartite fair agreement among the countries involved. He reaffirms faith in Siles Zuazo's government and its ability to come up with a proper solution.

Ramiro Velasco, deputy for the Socialist Party One follows with a 9-minute speech in which he blames "the permanently intertwined interests of the Chilean oligarchy and the United Kingdom" for the loss of the sea outlet and scores the Bolivian oligarchy for its indifference.

Oscar Bonifaz, deputy for the Christian Democratic Party extolls the heroism of Eduardo Abaroa and Augustin Aneller, deputy of the Revolutionary Front of the Left, states that Bolivia should not consider negotiating a resumption of relations with Chile unless the latter shows willingness to review the landlocked problem in a more open spirit. He concludes his 10-minute statement with a call to all Bolivians to unite for the economic and political strengthening of the nation.

The congressional session ends with a 16-minute speech by Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora who delves into the history of Bolivia before and after independence to prove the inalienable links of the nation to its sea outlet and the legitimate right of the Bolivian people to this outlet.

He states that Bolivia's internal turmoil at the end of the 19th century, the interests of its oligarchy and those of the Chilean ruling class were the true causes of the plunder experienced by the nation.

He says that in the 104 years that followed the loss of the sea outlet little positive has been achieved, especially toward uniting the Bolivian people in the quest for a solution. He praises the latest efforts at the dipolmatic level and stresses the value of the sea outlet for Bolivia's development.

He concludes by saying: "The Bolivian people, whose struggle brought about the current democratic process, feel that rather than being a mere change of government, this regime should be a new stage in both domestic and international policy. Honorable congressmen, it is within this context that we have the great opportunity and the great duty as Bolivians to build in freedom a great drive toward an all encompassing strengthening of the nation so that we will be able to face, on our own, a dignified and sovereign negotiation for a return to the Pacific Ocean. The new mysticism we will seek to awaken will not be based on emotions alone but also on the true realistic possibilities stemming from true national strengthening."

BRIEFS

GUEILER AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA -- Former President Lidia Gueiler Tejada has been appointed Bolivian ambassador to Colombia. [La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Mar 83 PY]

NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR -- The new Norwegian ambassador to Bolivia, D. Helge Vindenes, presented his credentials to President Hernan Siles Zuazo, yesterday. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 23 Feb 83 p 8 PY]

AGRARIAN REFORM OFFICIALS -- The president of the Agrarian Reform National Council has installed three new officials. They are; Roberto Cuellar Zenteno, secretary general; Jorge Villanueva, technical department director; and Freddy Chuquimia, secretary. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 26 Feb 83 p 9 PY]

PANDO PREFECT CONFIRMED -- The government has confirmed Emilio Orellana Congora as Pando prefect replacing Otto Kramer who died. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 25 Feb 83 p 6 PY]

O GLOBO REPORTS DE MATTOS VIEWS ON TIES TO U.S.

PY240000 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Mar 83 p 6

[By correspondent Edgardo Costa Reis]

[Excerpt] Washington -- Aeronautics Minister Delio Jardim de Mattos has stated in Washington that he finds nothing to justify a new military agreement with the United States and that the two countries must make separate agreements covering different sectors and "never a broad military agreement."

De Mattos will arrive today in Rio de Janeiro after a 1-week visit to the United States. He had a medical checkup in a Cleveland hospital and was operated on. He was also a guest of the U.S. Air Force.

The Brazilian Air Force [FAB] has its feet on the ground, the minister stated, and explained that the FAB will continue with the same policy, "strengthened by the lessons learned from the Malvinas crisis," seeking development rather than growth in terms of force.

We are much more concerned with development than increased firepower, De Mattos stated. Tomorrow we might have a powerful Air Force, but today we are concerned with development.

The minister insisted several times on this option for development which fits perfectly into the initiatives and the potential for cooperation not only with the United States but with France and Italy as well, and with others that may offer technology.

The fact that other Latin American countries are acquiring more sophisticated equipment does not require a similar response from Brazil, the minister stated.

He stated: Brazil has no problems with its neighbors, although some worries may nautrally exist. We are worried about the neighbor with a long border with Brazil. And any problem in Argentina or in any other South American country will certainly have some influence in Brazil.

The aeronautics minister insisted on the development option "developing technology," perhaps through the Technical Aeronautics Institute [ITA], created 30 years ago and which is "capable of becoming self-sufficient in a few years or in a medium term."

According to the minister, there has never been a cooling of relations between the Air Forces of Brazil and the United States and exchanges between the services have always been very good. He revealed that to continue with this cooperation, the two countries will probably carry out joint air defense maneuvers next year, and troop transport maneuvers the following year.

As far as dependence on the United States is concerned, he noted that the FAB fleet is 70 percent national, and added that obviously we do depend on the United States in the same way the United States depends on Japanese equipment.

Referring to U.S. cooperation in space programs, the minister stated that ITA is interested in preparing a pilot with a doctorate to participate in U.S. space programs.

But it takes time -- from 3 to 4 years -- he noted. But we need to prepare a pilot with a PhD. And he will be trained both in Brazil and in the United States.

GUERREIRO ENDS AFRICAN TOUR, ARRIVES LISBON

PY240020 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, who arrived today in Lisbon after visiting three African countries, has said that Brazil does not want to overlook the foreign sector despite its domestic problems.

Saraiva Guerreiro denied reports about the alleged cooling of relations with Angola and Mozambique by noting that relations with these two countries are better than ever. If we are not getting much done it is because we lack the means, he said.

In a tour of West Africa, Saraiva Guerreiro visited Gabon, the Ivory Coast and Guinea-Bissau. These visits were planned many months ago for President Figueiredo.

In each country, Saraiva Guerreiro presided over meetings of joint committees which discussed opportunities for technical, cultural and economic cooperation.

MINISTERS NOT TO RECEIVE OPPOSITION GOVERNORS

PY220250 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 18 Mar 83 p 3

[Text] Brasilia -- Planalto Palace has sent instructions to the ministers not to schedule audiences for the governors elected by the opposition until they have been received by President Joao Figueiredo, according to what was disclosed yesterday by one of the president's close aides.

According to the same source, this measure is a sign that the government is adjusting itself to the new political pattern of the country which changed last Tuesday with the swearing in of the directly elected governors, 10 of whom belong to opposition parties. Meanwhile, the truce proposal has not yet led to any concrete result, since the Social Democratic Party [PDS] has not received any instruction from the government to implement the truce, according to a statement by a PDS leader.

BRIEFS

FEBRUARY INFLATION FIGURES -- According to the Getulio Vargas Foundation the inflation rate in February amounted to 6.5 percent. [Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Mar 83 p 25 PY]

VENEZUELA BUYS TWO SHIPS -- As Adm Jonas Correa da Costa Sobrinho assumed office yesterday as national superintendant of the merchant marine, Venezuelan agents closed a deal for the purchase of two ships: The Carlos Borges of the Sao Paulo Maritime Trade Company, built at the Verolme Shipyards 14 years ago, sold to the Venezuelan ship company Venecia C.A. for $2 million; and the Neusa Marin, built recently by the Caneco Shipyards for the Libra Navigation Company, was sold for $10.5 million. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 18 Mar 83 p 19 PY]

AMBASSADOR TO IRAQ -- Former chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff [EMFA] Gen Alacyr Frederico Werner has been appointed new Brazilian ambassador to Iraq. He replaces another former EMFA Chief Gen Samuel Alves Correia. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 9 Mar 83 p 12 PY]

VIOLENCE, 1 DEATH REPORTED AS STRIKE CONTINUES

Labor Minister Appeals for Calm

PA231510 Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Speech by Ecuadorean Labor Minister Vladimiro Alvarez Grau on 22 March, place not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [words indistinct] as alternatives for the economic crisis we are experiencing, paralysis of activities and violence that will have no results and will not help resolve the situation. However, these same sectors forget that Ecuador is a peaceful country and that we all want to preserve this peace.

We must admit that the country's economic conditions are difficult, that those who were accustomed to luxuries and extravagance no longer have this possibility. By the same token, the vast majority of Ecuadoreans must give an example of common sacrifice.

Possibly, since we are near an electoral period, it would have been a better political decision for the government not to adopt some of these measures. However, this would have virtually resulted in our country's economic and social failure. Another alternative was doing nothing, but this government decided on a solution which we admit is not very popular, but which at the same time encourages Ecuadoreans to analyze the present situation.

The measures are harsh and affect us all, but they are necessary. More so, when they are intended to balance our national economy, create confidence for investments and prevent, above all, more unemployment and [word indistinct] of our country's abandoned majority sectors.

The Hurtado government's economic decisions are not intended, as many have said, to benefit a particular sector. What they seek is the necessary and difficult balance between social justice and productive requirements; naturally, at the lowest possible social cost.

The international economic crisis, which is reflected in the Ecuadorean situation, has compelled all the world's governments, regardless of their governmental, legal or economic system, to adopt incredibly harsh measures at very harmful social costs. There are examples of this everywhere, even in our neighboring countries, where living conditions are very [word indistinct]. Fortunately, Ecuador has not yet arrived at this extreme situation, and we still have time to correct procedures, reorganize our economy and confront our future with courage and determination.

Economic decisions had to be adopted in order to resolve the lack of dollars and sucres in our country.

No one can deny that many, or some of the demands made by labor unions or private enterprises, are probably just and would probably be given attention. However, this must be done in accordance with the mechanisms established in our Constitution and laws for these cases, without resorting to threats, insults or violence, if we are to defend the principles that have made Ecuador a democratic, free, respected and peaceful country.

Union leaders have threatened to paralyze the country's productive and economic activities. There is also suspicious support from some businessmen for the strike called by the single workers front, showing no respect for the community, which desires work and peace.

The government has emphatically said that these arbitrary attitudes are illegal, and that businessmen and workers who stop their activities will be subject to the sanctions or consequences established by law.

However, from the information gathered by the government, it has been concluded that, starting tomorrow, agitators and elements having nothing to do with the workers who are preparing to carry out actions that could endanger the property and physical safety of citizens. Therefore, the president of the republic, with the purpose of safeguarding public order and the lives of Ecuadoreans, this afternoon has decreed the suspension of public sector activities on Wednesday 23 March and Thursday 24 March. This time will be recovered from government workers in the following weeks.

he government, we reiterate, is determined to guarantee public order, but the responsible attitude of citizens is the best guarantee for their own safety.

20 Injured, 'Considerable Damage'

PA240248 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Report by (Napoleon Narvaez)]

[Excerpt] [Words indistinct] south, have so far left an aftermath of about 20 injured people, considerable material damage and some 100 detainees, union leaders report. The official reports, however, indicate that detainees number 40.

Union leader Froilan Asanza has confirmed that the strike was successful, and that it will be maintained indefinitely unless the government abolishes the measures that it adopted 5 days ago, including the 21-percent devaluation of the sucre. The workers, he said, are also demanding wage increases, labor stability, price freezes, state control of the financial system and foreign trade, and the dismissal of the government's economic team.

Meanwhile, Labor Minister Vladimiro Alvarez said at a news conference that the strike had been almost total, (?adding) that thanks to God the government was able to preserve peace.

Alvarez said that the Armed Forces had told President Oswaldo Hurtado that they support Ecuadorean democracy. I think that the Armed Forces are responsible and are aware of the specific functions that they (?successfully) fulfill, he stressed.

Commenting on the workers' demands, the official reiterated the government's decision to keep the dialogue open, while announcing that the economic measures would not be revised. He added that the wage revision must wait until the effects of the economic program currently being implemented become known.

For his part, the head of the Catholic Church, Cardinal (Pablo Miguel Vega) addressed a message to the citizens urging them to seek and follow the path of peace in order to overcome our current crisis. I want to ask our peoples not to fall prey to the temptation of violence, he said. Such an important cause in the area of the common social good cannot be abandoned to the impulses of passion and violence, the prelate added.

From a distance one can see large columns of smoke, as if many locomotives were passing by. As one goes through the streets, one can smell a lot of carbon anhydride, and this has been somewhat troublesome in carrying out our daily activities. There is considerable activity all over the city -- north, south and in the colonial sector -- by the demonstrators, who are burning (?hoses), tires and pieces of wood, thus hindering access to various streets, as they have done all day long.

A few minutes ago, the public force evicted the demonstrators [words indistinct] and we are now awaiting more news about detainees and casualties.

Protestors' March, Clash With Police

PA240252 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] [...broadcast in progress] arriving in central park at about 1100. Several student leaders delivered speeches there. Afterward, they tried to march along other streets carrying placards, but this was impossible because despite the recommendations made, several demonstrators tried to damage several of the public buildings, mainly those located near the place where the crowds had gathered. These buildings include the government palace and the buildings that house the provincial and cantonal councils.

In another part of the city, on 18 November Street, the buildings that house the CEDOC [Ecuadorean Central of Classist Organizations] and the Christian Democratic Party were stoned.

Five persons were injured during these confrontations between the people and police. The first casualty reportedly injured by policemen was Mrs (Carmen Delia Duran). This happened at 1430. She was injured at her home, located [words indistinct]. She is in very serious condition, as she was wounded in the abdomen. She is being treated at the San Agustin Clinic, and she is in extremely serious condition. Several pints of blood have been required to treat her.

The other seriously injured person -- who reportedly was not shot, but was hit by a stone -- is policeman (Baudilio Sisalina). This incident occurred at 1530 in central park, where the biggest confrontation between police and the people took place. The injured policeman is in (Isidro Ayola), Hospital.

Another person sustained lesions in the (?parietal and occipital regions). He is citizen (Gomez Rios), and he is also being aided in a local hospital.

Student (Leonardo Merino), who reportedly studies at the [words indistinct] school, was also injured, but his condition is not serious.

Municipal janitor (Jorge Piedra) was also wounded and detained. The janitor reportedly kept the police from entering the municipal offices. The bullet that injured policeman (Sisalina) presumably was fired from this area, although it is now being said that, according to the doctors' reports, the policeman was not wounded with a bullet. Possibly in reprisal for this, the police tried to enter the municipal offices, but (Piedra) prevented this. In the process he was beaten and detained. His condition is quite serious, and he is now at a health center.

A total of five persons were injured. Other casualties are being mentioned -- another policeman among them -- but we don't yet have any official information on this.

Student Reported Dead in Cuenca

PA240355 Paris AFP in Spanish 0331 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Quito, 23 Mar (AFP) -- A student in the city of Cuenca, some 300 km from the capital, died today, victim of a shot that came from an official vehicle. This information was supplied by a correspondent of Cadena Ecuador Radio.

According to the same source the victim, an unidentified black student, was hit in the face by the bullet.

Government Minister Discusses Situation

PA240453 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Station interview with Government and Justice Minister Galo Garcia at his office in Quito -- live]

[Excerpts] [Galo Garcia] The president of the Chamber of Representative has made a comment that I believe should be emphasized; that subjects need to be analyzed, and that they should be handled within the appropriate jurisdiction of each one of the government branches. Therefore, the president of the National Chamber of Representatives has suggested that each branch should act within the strict limits that correspond to that branch.

[Question] [Words indistinct] participation of political and labor [word indistinct] with leaflets has any specific [words indistinct]?

[Answer] A measure or proposition of this kind is unacceptable. It undoubtedly shows lack of respect for the country's top authorities. As many communications media have already noted, it is an inadmissible call for unconstitutional intervention, as if Ecuadorean institutions could be used at will by sectors that are trying to manipulate the political sector in Ecuador. So in this respect I believe that the communications media presently providing information to enable the Ecuadorean people to form their own opinions should insist on stressing that this type of call through leaflets that has been widely commented on in the latest newscasts in the country are unacceptable and intolerable. I think that not only is it an attempt to force a resignation -- as if the author or authors of the leaflets could speak for the majority of Ecuadoreans -- but it is also an attempt to manipulate respectable institutions that have not gotten involved in supporting the whims and personal and private interests of small groups in Ecuador.

[Question] Mr Minister, how many have been arrested so far in the country?

[Answer] I do not have any report on this. In any event, the public force only arrests individuals in extreme cases, when their actions violate citizens' human rights, and especially when private and public property are attacked.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Yes, undoubtedly the police must act firmly in case of vandalistic actions. The important thing is that in [word indistinct] societies, the public force must act defensively and try to handle the situation with the maximum prudence and good judgment, in order not to give an opportunity to those who use the phrase violence generates more violence, without considering what the initial factor was that made it necessary to use force at a given time.

[Question] What will the government's next steps in the near future be, that is, in the next few hours, in order to find a solution to this problem? Are there going to be any talks with the United Workers Front?

[Answer] We are always open for dialogue. I want to emphasize this fundamental aspect. This is a democratic government that has assumed its historical responsibility at a political (?price) in defense of the Ecuadorean society. In order to serve this society, the national government and those who form it are always willing to maintain dialogue, to revise and study all the necessary subjects so that conviction, necessity and security prevail when making national decisions.

From this point of view, if maintaining dialogue is necessary, if it is necessary to put the cards on the table, the national government will do so, but always in accordance with its responsibilities. *It would be easier to* remain comfortably at home, without assuming one's responsibility, without taking any action. The national government has adopted a different position; it makes decisions after the necessary studies are made, looks for the lowest possible social cost and is always willing to assume its historical responsibility without being obstinate or stubborn.

FUT Calls Major March Thursday

PA240600 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Statement by Froilan Asanza, president of the United Workers Front, at a news conference held at the union's headquarters in Quito on 23 March -- live]

[Excerpt] [Words indistinct] that the nationwide strike will continue unless the national government responds to our struggle platform. We have already notified the executive and legislative branches about our decision to continue our nationwide strike.

[Words indistinct] decision, our 48-hour strike began today, but if the national government and the National Chamber of Representatives do not respond positively, the strike will continue.

Concerning this we want to issue an appeal to the Ecuadorean workers, to the various sectors listening to us, to the democratic sectors, urging them to remain alert and to prepare for the actions [words indistinct] tomorrow. We have called a big demonstration starting at 1400 here in Quito. The demonstration will tour the city's main streets to warn both the president of the republic and the executive branch that our strike will not end on Friday if the government, as we have already pointed out, does not respond favorably.

The balance of this first day of strike is some 40 companeros injured in various parts of the country. It has just been confirmed for us that there are some 150 detained workers in the country's 21 provinces.

We have also learned that several companeros who were detained [words indistinct] have been released. The other companeros, it has been learned from the media, are still under arrest (?and we don't) know where they are being held. Investigations and inquiries have been made with the police [words indistinct] in the police stations and superintendencies in the various provinces, but they claim to have no information about the detention of some of our missing companeros. We assume the police are detaining them somewhere.

So far, none of our leaders have been wounded. What we have had is companeros and workers -- many of whom had nothing to do with the strike, but were simply walking down a street -- detained and imprisoned by police. The United Workers Front [FUT] rejects the government's attack and urges the Ecuadorean people to remain alert in order to continue with our measures.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] There have been no meetings with either the labor minister or the president of the republic. We have been demanding a broad and open meeting, at which the Ecuadorean people would remain attentive instead of being deceived by false reports. The FUT comprises the three major unions and the national strike committee, all of which have turned down a closed discussion with the government, demanding instead an open discussion and a clear response by the government to our struggle platform.

[Question] An indefinite strike was announced a short while ago [words indistinct].

[Answer] We have already told the president of the republic and the National Chamber of Representatives that they will be the ones to determine the success of this strike. If they do not respond, our strike will continue.

Talks Fail, Strikes Possibly Indefinite

PA241338 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0603 GMT 24 Mar 83

[By Jorge Aguirre]

[Excerpts] Quito, 24 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- The first day of the 2-day strike called by workers and supported by businessmen and bus drivers to protest the government's economic policy has left 1 dead, 50 injured, more than 100 arrested and property damage, as well as the possibility that the strike might become indefinite.

The United Workers Front (FUT) leadership said last night that the talks with the government to achieve an agreement failed completely and that if the situation remains the same in the next few hours the strike will not be called off.

Government Minister Galo Garcia's house in Guayaquil, a port 416 km southwest of Quito, was stoned by demonstrators, while in Quito there were barricades a few blocks from the Government Palace until late last night.

Garcia told reporters that the protestors "want to force the resignation of President Oswaldo Hurtado, something that is intolerable and inadmissible." Labor Minister Vladimiro Alvarez said in a news conference that the overthrow of the constitutional government is being sought.

According to Alvarez, the Ecuadorean Armed Forces "has reiterated its full support for democracy and the current government" and that the executive branch does not believe that unrest currently exists that would force the sending of troops to the streets to maintain order or the declaration of a state of emergency.

BANK DEMANDS AN AFFRONT; NEW YORK TRIP A FAILURE

PY2400031 Lima EL DIARIO DE LA MARKA in Spanish 16 Mar 83 p 10

[Editorial: "A New Failure"]

[Text] After a long trip abroad, Economy Minister Carlos Rodriguez Pastor returned home frustrated: The New York bankers, despite the regime's wishes, have forced the short-term renegotiation of the debt.

Rodriguez Pastor's trip had two objectives which were in practice inseparable. The idea was to get a $1 billion loan to cover the already reduced and battered national budget and to prevent the renegotiation of the debt. The value in dollars equivalent to 50 percent of the budget had to be found at any cost. As far as the available information goes, the government has reportedly obtained a loan of $880 million for an 8-year term but with an interest rate still to be fixed and which is going to be negotiated in the near future. This is one of the results -- there are others -- of the Peruvian Government's weak and dependent position in dealing with foreign banks. These banks have again imposed their conditions.

But even this $880 million should not create any illusions because it will be used for the clear advantage of the imperialist financial capital; $430 million will be used to pay the interest on the foreign debt; the remaining $450 will be used to maintain the balance of payments.

Of all the affronts, the hardest one is the one forcing the short-term renegotiation of the foreign debt. The Peruvian Government had to accept a so-called rescheduling of $2 billion. A sum which was to have been paid in the next few days and which represents the overall short-term debt.

This forced refinancing represents a failure which the government must admit. Only a few weeks ago, during the presentation of the new cabinet in a special session of congress, Prime Minister Fernado Schwalb assured us that his economic plan aimed at avoiding any renegotiation of the foreign debt just as various members of the opposition demanded.

Making it more explicit, the government sought a bilateral and privileged relation with the international banks. It was with this illusory objective -- typical of those who have more trust in foreigners -- that the regime rejected the proposal to negotiate, in a single Latin American bloc, the refinancing of the debt. There was no talk of a selective moratorium, there was only a request for unity to negotiate under better conditions. The government even ordered, as a first priority expense, the payment on time of its foreign commitments in contrast to what other countries did. The government did this at the cost of hunger, unemployment and inflation.

Unfortunately -- and not only for them -- they have again failed. The demands of the workers expressed in the successful national strike and the rebuff received in New York confirm the need for changes in the economic policies.

PRESIDENT MEETS WITH FRENCH ROVING ENVOY

PA221708 Paris AFP in Spanish 0147 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Caracas, 21 Mar (AFP) -- Antoine Blanca, French roving ambassador to Latin America and the Caribbean, met this afternoon with Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins. The meeting took place at the presidential residence.

Blanca, who will leave tomorrow for Quito at the conclusion of a 4-day visit to Venezuela, said yesterday evening during a brief news conference that he had discussed the American situation with President Herrera and Foreign Minister Zambrano Velasco.

Blanca said that "it is necessary to establish a dialogue among the political forces in El Salvador." He added: "In the current situation, it is the guerrillas who must take the intiative. I believe that there is a desire for peace and dialogue in many sectors. A dialogue between the parties should be facilitated." Blanca said: "Elections in which all the Salvadoran people do not participate should not be repeated."

Blanca was asked about the current situation in Venezuela, which is being affected by economic and oil crises. He said that he trusts in the future of "this friendly country" for two reasons: "The large democratic capacity of the people, and the capacity for adapting and generating new forces that will permit the country to go forward again."

Blanca met with the three most important presidential candidates for the 4 December elections, Jaime Lusinchi (of Democratic Action), former President Rafael Caldera (of the governing Social Christian Party) and Teodoro Petkoff (of the Movement for Socialism).

The French roving ambassador met with several participants in the regular meeting of the Andrean Parliament that will conclude its sessions here this afternoon, including Raul Baca Carbo, from Ecuador, who is the Parliament's president.

Blanca attended the work meetings of the Commissions on Education and Integration as special guest of the Andrean Parliament. Blanca held meetings with former Foreign Ministers Rafael Caldera [as received] and Aristides Calvani. Calvani is believed to be the architect of Venezuela's policy on Central America; he favors ideological and political pluralism.

The French roving ambassador announced that next month he will go to Brazil, and that in May he will go to Argentina and Uruguay.

COSTA RICA

GOVERNMENT WANTS DIALOGUE WITH NICARAGUA

PA231359 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1239 GMT 24 Mar 83

[By Wilfredo Chacon S.]

[Text] San Jose, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- A high-ranking government source told ACAN-EFE that the government is considering promoting an official dialogue with Nicaragua before the situation between the two countries becomes more serious. "Costa Rica is neutral in Nicaragua's domestic affairs, has proven this on many occasions, and is doing so now with police and political actions that have prevented the organization of the anti-Sandinists in the country," the official stated.

Regarding neutrality, the Costa Rican Government has said that "it is understood as the decision to prevent any attacks from this country against another and to prevent the violation of Costa Rican territory from abroad."

Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano was asked how the Costa Rican Government can prevent the Sandinist army from violating national sovereignty, to which he responded: "We have the most powerful weapon available to men; dialogue."

ACAN-EFE also learned that President Luis Alberto Monge will not yet request the intervention of international organizations such as the OAS or the United Nations, which confirms that what is sought is direct dialogue between officials of the two governments.

Minister Solano told this agency the "border situation is not critical, but is rather normal." However," he added, "we must avoid problems and try to maintain normal relations, smoothing out and reducing the existing differences."

Regarding the charge made in Managua by the Nicaraguan security organization that the CIA trains groups in Costa Rica under the command of Eden Pastora to stage actions against the Sandinists, Minister Angel Edmundo Solano rejected it and indicated that "my government's official policy is not to consent -- not to Eden Pastora or any foreigner -- that attacks be organized against any other country."

Among the most effective measures to avoid actions by the Nicaraguan opposition against the Nicaraguan Government, Solano referred to the recently created "Atlantic Command," which constantly patrols that territory to prevent it from being used as a springboard for hostile actions against neighboring countries.

According to the security minister, the police force established in the north has three basic principles: To guarantee that Costa Ricans can live free without fear of Sandinists or anti-Sandinists, to guarantee the government's total neutrality, and to guarantee the defense of the country's territorial integrity.

EL SALVADOR

ELECTORAL OFFICIAL ON PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS

PA232325 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1626 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Ricardo Alfredo Maida, president of the Salvadoran Central Electoral Council, CCE, said today that the electoral registry for El Salvador will be completed by December, in time for the presidential elections.

He added that in the past few days the CCE has met with representatives of the political parties to inform them of what this organization is doing, and in this manner work together on electoral matters. According to Maida, the CCE has the necessary funds to purchase modern equipment for the Electoral Registry, and negotiations for these purchases are in progress.

The CCE did not legally register the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party, PAIS, last night as had been scheduled, because they don't agree with the use of PAIS as the party's acronym. According to CCE Vice President Rafael Hasbun, the members of the electoral organization unanimously agreed on this; therefore, the inscription of the party did not take place.

Members of the new political party said: "We regret the fact that obstacles are being placed regarding the much-talked-about democratization process, and that doors are being closed to the group's legal participation in the achievement of peace in El Salvador."

Col Roberto Escobar Garcia, secretary general of PAIS, said that he is not satisfied with "this groundless reasoning" used by the CCE not to register his party. He added that the new party's legal advisers have said that all the documents presented to the electoral organization were drafted according to the law.

Meanwhile, Hugo Carrillo, vice president of the Salvadoran Constitutent Assembly and leader of the National Conciliation Party, PCN, said that party coalitions could occur for the coming presidential elections. He said that his party's political committee is currently holding meetings with leaders of other parties to analyze the Salvadoran economic, social and political situation, and the solutions suggested by other political institutions.

Carrillo said that the party he represents will hold a convention in May to choose the presidential and vice presidential candidates to be presented by the PCN for the general elections to be held in December.

ARMED FORCES STATEMENT ON PENDING COURT CASES

PA232203 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 22 Mar 83 p 41

[Statement issued by the Armed Forces general command on 22 March in San Salvador]

[Text] The situation of Armed Forces members who for various reasons are under the jurisdiction of the common courts was studied at a meeting held on Friday 18 March between members of the Armed Forces high command and unit commanders. The following goals were considered at the meeting:

1. To reemphasize fulfillment of the rule observed by the armed forces not to intervene in these cases, leaving impartial judgment in the hands of common justice, regardless of the charge or the rank or category of those involved in criminal actions.

2. To reaffirm the commitment made by the president of the republic, the general commander of the armed forces, the high command members and the commanders, to seek through appropriate government bodies a normal development of legal actions leading to the solution of all crimes, particularly the following:

A) The case of the four U.S. nuns, which has been returned to the court in charge of this case to clarify the records and strengthen the evidence they supply;

B) The case of the U.S. trade unionists, which is currently being appealed;

C) The case of U.S. Citizen Michael B. Kline, in which the suspects have already been turned over to the appropriate tribunal; and

D) The case of the peasants killed in Las Hojas canton, Sonsonate Department, concerning which the minister of defense and public security has ordered a thorough investigation to determine the circumstances under which these incidents occurred.

In all these cases, as in any other, it is a cause of special concern that justice be imparted without pressure or influence from either groups or individuals. [Signed] Alvaro Magana, president of the republic and general commander of the Armed Forces

ARMY OPENS OPERATIONS IN CHALATENANGO DEPARTMENT

PA231744 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1310 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- On Tuesday the Salvadoran Army began a military operation in Chalatenango Department, in the northern part of the country, involving approximately 2,000 men, military sources told ACAN-EFE.

The operation includes forces from the two detachments in Chalatenango Department and from the "Ramon Belloso" and "Atlacatl" battalions, trained in the United States.

Without identifying the source, an afternoon paper here reported that the armed forces are engaged in heavy fighting in the town of Sesori, San Miguel Department, an area controlled by the FMLN. Official sources have not confirmed this operation.

Meanwhile, military spokesmen yesterday denied an alleged landing of over 100 rebel paratroopers north of San Miguel, reported Monday by a local newspaper.

The spokesman noted that neither El Salvador nor Nicaragua have any aircraft capable of carrying 60 soldiers, as the paper speculated, because the models used in neither country can carry over 30 men. Besides, it would have been impossible to dodge the vigilance in the area.

Judicial authorities in the capital yesterday identified three bodies, ranging from 30 to 35 years of age. One was the wife of an Army sergeant male nurse. In Santa Ana, the second most important city in the country, three official trucks were destroyed when several armed men dropped dynamite sticks inside them.

The night before last near the same city, rebel forces attacked the military post guarding "Las Pulgas" bridge. There has been no report of casualties on either side. Finally, the Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) circulated 17 photos supposedly taken by Marianella Garcia Villas, president of the human rights commission, who died Monday, 14 March, in the northern part of the country. The photos show scenes of a guerrilla camp, with farming and instruction activities underway, and other areas of the camp.

The day before yesterday the human rights commission charged that Marianella Garcia had obtained evidence that the army is using chemicals in the fight against the guerrillas and that the armed forces is holding such evidence.

Several photos distributed by the army show trees without leaves and poor vegetation, "burned by the heat and dry season in El Salvador during the month of March," according to the military spokesmen. The charges, they added, "are the result of the anti-Soviet propaganda accusing the Soviet Army of using chemical substances against the Afghan people, for which the Salvadoran Army is not responsible."

FMLN CONCERNED OVER 'MASSIVE U.S. INTERVENTION'

FL232055 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2022 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The FMLN and FDR expressed their concern here today over a probable massive U.S. intervention in Central America.

Juan Jose Maetell, representative of the Salvadoran insurgents in Mexico, said the guerrillas are a product of the social and economic injustice which has prevailed in that Central American country over the last 60 years. Thus he rejected U.S. Government allegations in the sense that the Salvadoran struggle is a confrontation between communism and capitalism.

Interviewed by NOTIMEX, Jose Maetell indicated that the FMLN and FDR will continue to intensify the war against the government's army which has been defeated in the political arena and will continue to advance the proposals for dialogue in order to bring peace to the region. Elsewhere, he described U.S. policy -- which intends to grant El Salvador an additional $110 million in military aid -- as interventionist.

Besides that, he said, the [United States] has trained and equipped some 6,000 former Somozist guards to invade Nicaragua and take away the right of Central American peoples to choose their own leaders. He said he believed that if the United States continues with that policy, international peace will be threatened by the danger of a more widespread war in Central America.

STATION INTERVIEWS PDC LEADER REY PRENDES

PA211844 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 000 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Station interview with Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party -- live]

[Text] [Question] Sir, we would like you to tell those listening to our newscast in your own words: What was the result of the national convention that your party held here in this capital beginning early this morning and concluding, we understand, just a few minutes ago?

[Answer] I take pleasure in informing the Salvadoran people of the results of the convention and the events that took place during it. The convention opened between 1030 and 1100 with a speech by me, your servant, generally outlining what the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] should be and how it should behave in the coming elections.

Second, we proceeded to elect the president and secretary of the convention. I was elected president and Jose Ovidio Hernandez Delgado was elected secretary.

However, there was a discussion about parliamentary procedure and as we were about to begin discussion of the main issue, Jose Napoleon Duarte and Fidel Chavez Mena asked the participants to suspend the convention at this time because discussions are underway to determine a formula, a path by which we would face up to the current situation more appropriately by choosing the party candidates on another occasion. Since this request was made by both Duarte and Chavez Mena, the two aspirants who were to be presented at that meeting -- and, in passing, I can say that the convention was very well attended, very democratic, full of expressions of support on all sides, with posters, pennants and many other things that reflect the party's democratic spirit -- we felt that it was better to suspend the session and to continue it at a later date. That is the result of the national convention meeting held today.

[Question] Yesterday, some of Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena's supporters said that they would lobby for or request a postponement of the choice of party candidate. In this regard, isn't this an initial triumph for those who are supporting the foreign minister within the PDC?

[Answer] I wouldn't say that, because in that case, one could also say that it was a triumph for anyone else. Personally, without being a supporter of the foreign minister, I also felt that I should try to suspend the convention so that we could wait for a more opportune moment to make the choice, to seek an understanding among all Christian Democrats that would give us greater strength in the coming elections. Therefore, had I said yesterday that I would not like the choice of candidate to be made today, it would have been interpreted as a victory for me. I believe that in this regard there were many people who felt the same way. In fact, as I said, Duarte was the first to request this suspension.

I would like to clarify that the foreign minister's supporters actually proposed that the convention refrain from making a decision on the choice of candidates and that a new convention be convened. This was not done; instead this convention has not ended, because the same convention will resume soon.

[Question] To continue this interview, we would like to ask you how many delegates and alternates will elect the candidate to the PDC presidency, and whether the candidate will choose his running mate?

[Answer] I will answer with pleasure. The national convention is composed of several organizations. One of them is the National Directorate, which in turn is made up of the political commission, the executive commission and three delegates from all of the departments. To this must be added the honor tribunal and, finally, 150 delegates elected proportionally on the basis of the population of the country's various departments, added to the 24 PDC deputies.

If we add all of these together, we have about 212 people. However, several delegates have more than one post. For example, I am a member of the political commission, of the executive committee and a deputy; therefore, I have three different posts, which count for purposes of a quorum but not in the voting, because each of us has only one vote. Therefore, all of the deputies -- and almost all of the deputies were present, 178 deputies were present -- have to be present at the next meeting, at the next session of this convention. They are the ones who vote. Alternates have no voting rights. Excuse me, what was the other question?

[Question] The other question was whether the chosen PDC candidate has the right to personally choose his vice presidential running mate.

[Answer] No, absolutely not. The vice presidential candidate is elected in the same way. In fact, even if it is a candidate from another political party, or an independent or whatever, the vice presidential candidate still has to be elected by the convention in the manner established in the statute for the election of presidential candidates. Thus, the vice presidential candidate must also be elected in this way.

[Question] Well, we thank Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, PDC secretary general, for accepting our invitation this afternoon. Sir, if you have anything else to say to the Salvadoran people, our microphones are at your service.

[Answer] Thank you very much. I only wish to thank you for this opportunity and to tell the Salvadoran people to be on the alert, because our choice of party candidate is of great importance to the Salvadoran people.

We are sure that the people will understand that the PDC is a party that has remained and will always remain united, because it is united in its ideology, in the strength that we receive from our democratic ideology.

Any decision reached by the party will be supported by all members of the PDC to a man. That decision will be announced soon to all of the media. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

RIOS MONTT GIVES SPEECH ON 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

PA231932 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1533 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Speech by Guatemalan President Gen Efrain Rios Montt on anniversary of 1st year in office, from reception room of National Palace in Guatemala City -- live]

[Text] Fellow citizens, a year ago a group of young officers decided to put an end to the abusive and corrupt process that for many years had maintained an antipatriotic government system to plunge the Guatemalan people into subversion, misery and exploitation, and to maintain a clique of exploiters and priviledged persons who trafficked with the law, morals, finances and social justice of the people.

It is significant for me that the young officers took the initiative, because I see in their determination and anger the audacity and strength that spring forth from a mixture of daring and rebellion. Although this is condemnable because they violated basic principles of authority and discipline, they made their ideas and ideals prevail, thereby overcoming an already untenable situation.

I cannot honor this action as a military action, nor can I exalt it because it was rooted in rebellion. Nevertheless, I feel obliged to review my personal responsibility for the existence of the conditions that led those men unanimously to dare to risk their lives, what they had and what they were, to end the abuse of the people due to the rulers' arrogance and avarice.

I want to make very clear, and reaffirm, that those young soldiers did not take this step in search of glory, prizes or sinecures for themselves. Simply, they were motivated by a force emerging from their souls and decided to implement the ideals in their minds, what we ourselves taught them, to struggle until death for the homeland's glory. Many may consider this phrase outmoded and without value, but those officers turned it into living words.

We are not celebrating 23 March to exalt those officers or to erect statues to them to distort the true essence of what they sought with their (?farsighted) action. On this date we should consider the degree of our responsibility in order to prevent the basic principles of our human relationship from being trampled; work against the abuse of power and corruption, and prevent another coup d'etat just because we have not known how to rule ourselves.

This attitude of life will exalt the Guatemalan youth, both military and civilian, who will be able to look at the past with freedom and verify with satisfaction that you and I, who must take the responsibility for the affront of not having done for the homeland what we should have done, have learned our lesson, corrected our faults and established a school of respect, honesty and decency. There is no better homage than this because statues disappear, but the attitude of an honest people who fulfill the principles for which the young struggle will be imperishable because they will remain in life and prosperity, in the glory and spirit of Guatemala among nations.

Now it is up to you and me to continue the construction of this nation so that, without coups d'etat, it can honestly and freely determine its destiny. To achieve this we must be as good as the officers, manifesting our determination that, at the risk of our own lives, things will be done according to the law, according to the will of God, because we must prevent these youths, again disappointed by our immorality, from turning against us and again bathing our Guatemala in its own blood.

When I assume the country's government, I also assumed the commitment to reconstruct it. Achieving this transformation is the true historic justification of the Guatemalan Army's movement on 23 March 1982. Let it be understood, therefore, that our ministry is not a vain exercise of power without course or purpose; neither is it a continuing action to amass booty or run some kind of business. We have assumed political power to overcome national underdevelopment, to bring our social reality into the light, and to revise Guatemala's economic political and social power structures. Perhaps this will be the last opportunity for the Guatemalan people to face the challenge of the future united and with optimism, so that tomorrow will be the work of everyone. Let us remember that we are all making history. Let us be conscientious of our identity and let us make Guatemala over in the manner of the Guatemalan people. However, let us also be conscientious of the passions, obstacles and difficulties we will have to face.

These risks oblige us to give the best of our lives without false pretenses because God is with us and we are certain that our government has the backing of a people who are beginning to see their ideals of justice fulfilled.

Being identified with the spirit of my people and with the principles of my army, I want to tell you that our government is not personalistic or a monopoly of any particular institution. It is at the service of Guatemala, and the president is its principal servant. We want this understood by those who profess modern local boss-type leadership, individual extremism, vanity and political swindles that have only betrayed the Guatemalan people's interests.

Heeding the voices that demand the immediate return to constitutional government, we are today issuing the laws that must be fulfilled by all interested parties. We want to remind everyone that the movement of the Guatemalan Army on 23 March 1982 was not made to defend the established order but in order to change it fundamentally. Consequently, we are legislating to create a new institutional order. We want this to be known by those who enjoyed power to do business and establish sinecures. The Guatemalan Army movement of 23 March 1982 replaces a whole system with another that is qualitatively different. Now we are beginning to construct it through compliance with the law.

I wish to inform the domestic and foreign capitalists that conditions exist for them to confidently use their money to contribute to economic activities. We are certain that there is confidence and government backing for investments that promote development in a framework of respect for the just expectations of capital and the worker's legitimate rights. Confidence also emanates from political stability, which we have.

Perhaps we have social violence, but its control is a matter of understanding and participation. We would also like to tell investors that there is confidence because we seek an integral development.

Fellow citizens, I reaffirm that our legitimacy does not proceed from a corrupt but from the incontrovertible defense and just interpretation of the interests of the Guatemalan people, who were rescued by the Guatemalan Army on 23 March 1982.

Guatemalans, judge and define your situation, because if the social manipulators make you engage in violence, you will find it. However, we want you to know that no one who commits a crime will escape justice. Young Guatemalan, I want to speak to you personally. Listen to me: Look for God. In him there is peace. God loves Guatemala and if God is with us, who can be against us? Thank you [applause]

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO HUMBERTO ORTEGA CHARGES

PA231333 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Communique issued by the Honduran Government International Information Directorate in Tegucigalpa on 22 March 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] The International Information Directorate of the government of the republic, in response to statements made by Commander Humberto Ortega, member of the FSLN National Directorate and chief of the Nicaraguan Army, to the effect that there is danger of a war with Honduras, declares:

1. Our country's democratic and constitutional government has no plans to enter into a war with any state in or outside Central America.

2. Honduras' foreign policy is based on promotion of peace; therefore, with the support of several Latin American democracies, Honduras is seeking paths that lead to a Central American foreign ministerial meeting to set the guidelines for disarmament, detente and civilized coexistence on the isthmus.

3. It is absolutely false that anti-Sandinist guerrillas have bases in Honduras or have left from our territory to carry out attacks against the regime of the neighboring country. The charge that the Honduran Air Force will eventually provide support for the groups that are fighting inside Nicaragua is no more than speculation designed to give the impression that the insurgents have come from abroad, when the fact is that they are operating inside Nicaragua.

4. Honduras reiterates its willingness, which it has already expressed on previous occasions, to submit to serious and impartial international scrutiny to demonstrate that within its territory there are no armed bands of factions hostile to any country or government, as long as the Nicaraguan authorities do the same, in order to facilitate an objective determination of who is promoting an arms buildup and threatening the peace in this part of the hemisphere.

OFFICIAL DENIES PLAN FOR TRAINING SALVADORANS

PA232320 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 2214 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Carlos Florez Facusse, secretary of state for the presidential office, today expressed great surprise over the publications circulating abroad asserting that Salvadoran troops might be trained in Honduras. According to Flores Facusse, our government has not even considered this possibility.

Honduran authorities, democratically elected by the people, frame all their actions within the national Constitution and other laws currently in effect, so that any action in this direction would have to be channeled through the corresponding institutional bodies, the secretary of state added, obviously alluding to the National Congress' power to either authorize or deny passage through this country's territory to foreign troops.

There is nothing definite about this matter, he stressed finally, saying in conclusion that Honduras is a sovereign country, with both the right and the authority to either accept or turn down an request submitted to it. So far, nothing like this has been suggested, nor do I think it suitable to authorize an operation of this kind, he said. We are basically interested in promoting both peace and democracy in Central America, so any action that takes us further away from this goal runs contrary to our fundamental interest.

GOVERNMENT DENIES MOBILIZATION ON BORDER

PA232358 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 2315 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Communique issued by the Honduran Government International Information Directorate in Tegucigalpa on 23 March -- read by announcer]

[Text] The government of the republic, through its International Information Directorate, in response to the propaganda avalanche of the last several hours launched by Nicaraguan Government officials and sympathizers of Marxism-Leninism in several countries of the world, declares for the sake of the truth that:

1. Honduras is a country at peace. There has been no declaration of a state of alert or mobilization of any type that shows evidence of unrest of any kind. Economic, cultural and all other activities are continuing in a climate of complete normalcy.

2. It is absolutely false that Honduras has activated troops, sent planes or dropped paratroopers over Nicaraguan territory. No land, sea or air soldier has moved from his post, nor will they do so unless it is to defend our homeland from an eventual aggression.

3. The high command, headed by the constitutional president of the republic as commander in chief of the armed forces, has not ordered any military activity in the vicinity of the Nicaraguan border. Everything that has been said to the contrary is part of a psychological war unleashed by the enemies of democracy in Central America.

4. Honduras is in no way involved in the internal problems of Nicaragua, which have caused many of its citizens to rise up in arms against the present regime within Nicaragua. Our country does not encourage, supply, support or protect guerrillas or terrorists, because it is aware that nonintervention is a basic element of every democratic foreign policy.

5. The Honduran Government is firmly convinced that the internal conflicts and tensions of Central America will be solved only if the peoples are permitted freely to elect their rulers; if a healthy political, economic, religious and cultural pluralism is encouraged; and if a truly participatory democracy is constructed to promoted freedom and the total development of man.

ARMY DENIES UPI REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR ATTACK

PA232037 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] The Honduran Armed Forces denied a UPI report published by TIEMPO yesterday under the headline: Salvadoran Rebels Charge Honduran Jets Support Military Attack. According to the information, on 19 March Honduran Super Mystere fighter planes flew over Morazan Department. Following is the official communique released by the Honduran Army denying the UPI report: The daily TIEMPO of this capital, in its issue no 1593 of 21 March 1983, on page 17 carries a UPI report from El Salvador under the headline: Salvadoran Rebels Charge Honduran Jets Support Military Attack.

The item claims that the Salvadoran rebels made the following statement: On 19 March, Honduran Super Mystere fighter planes flew over Morazan Department.

Regarding this slanted information intended to link our country to the Salvadoran conflict, and in order to provide the correct information for the benefit of the national and international public, the Honduran Armed Forces declares:

1. The Honduran Air Force operations log registers no Super Mystere plane flight on the date mentioned in the paper, clearly indicating that the information was unfounded and intended to confuse the Honduran people and the international community through arbitrary misinformation.

2. The Honduran Armed Forces hereby ratifies that our borders are permanently patrolled to protect our national sovereignty and territorial integrity while observing respect for the sovereignty of the bordering states. Through these practices of unchallengeable neutrality, we remain loyal to the nation's policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states, strictly observed by the Honduran Government as the foundation for the friendly relations and cooperation maintained by the Republic of Honduras with all free, democratic nations of the world, and as the best guarantee to make effective the internationalization of peace, firmly endorsed by the Honduran Government.

Tegucigalpa, Central District; 21 Mar 1983 [Signed] Office of Public Relations of the Honduran Armed Forces

ARMY EXPLAINS INSTALLATION OF RADAR STATION

PA231735 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 22 Mar 83 p 31

[Text] Col Roberto Martinez Avila, commander of the 105th Military Brigade, said yesterday that the installation of a radar station near Tegucigalpa does not violate national sovereignty but, on the contrary, will help protect Honduras from any surprise attack. "The radar station cannot violate our sovereignty, because it is owned by the Honduran Army forces and not by the U.S. Government, as has been implied," said Colonel Martinez Avila.

"The radar station is being installed by U.S. technicians at a cost of $5 million, and for the first 2 years it will be operated by U.S. experts. But this does not mean that it belongs to the U.S. Government," he said.

"Installing a radar station is nothing unusual, especially when it will be used to monitor the flights of Russian planes that may violate Honduran airspace or try to launch a surprise attack," he said. He also denied that the Honduran Army has become the gendarme of the United States. He added that the United States has no need for Honduras to defend its interests in this region.

Martinez Avila said that the groups that are trying to destabilize the present government do not have a fighting banner, because the constitutional government was elected by the majority of the people and is fulfilling its functions.

"This organization [presumably the government] has the complete backing of the armed forces, and the Honduran people must have confidence that their army is prepared to defend their democratic way of life."

NICARAGUA

FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTESTS HONDURAN 'AGGRESSION'

PA231346 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Official Nicaragua Foreign Ministry protest note to the Honduran Foreign Affairs Secretariat, issued in Managua on 22 March -- read by announcer]

[Text] Mr Minister, I am addressing Your Excellency to inform you about the latest acts of aggression suffered by Nicaraguan territory at the hands of military men of the Honduran Armed Forces.

At 1606 on 20 March, Honduran soldiers based in Las Lomas de los Pastores, in Honduran territory, fired rifles, .50 caliber machineguns and 80-mm mortars at the Nicaraguan observation post in Vado Ancho, 2 km southwest of Santo Tomas del Nance, Chinandega Department.

At 1735, the Honduran soldiers launched a second attack on this portion of our national territory. In strict compliance with orders from our Government of National Reconstruction to avoid this type of provocation, our troops did not respond to the attacks.

At 0900 today, in the Palo Verde area, 2 km west of Santo Tomas del Nance, the Honduran Army carried out a large deployment of forces near the border.

In the current critical circumstances, when Nicaragua is enduring the most serious increase in aggression from counterrevolutionary forces that operate from Honduran territory, the acts of provocation we have just pointed out are fully in line with the interventionist and warlike plans of the U.S. Government, whose ultimate goal is to destroy the Nicaraguan revolutionary process. The plans include open war between Honduras and Nicaragua, a serious threat we have been denouncing for a long time.

On several occasions we have insisted to the Honduran Government on the need to prevent further deterioration of our bilateral relations in order to avoid a fratricidal conflict that would bring ruin to our people. In strongly protesting these attacks on our national territory, Nicaragua again appeals to the Honduran Government for moderation and prudence, and demands a cease to all acts of aggression and intervention against our country by the Honduran Armed Forces.

I take advantage of this opportunity to reaffirm to your excellency my consideration and esteem. [Signed] Nora Astorga, acting foreign minister

DEFENSE MINISTRY REPORTS ON BORDER CLASH

PA240240 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0156 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Communique No 10 of the Public and Foreign Relations Department of the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry, issued on 23 March in Managua -- read by unidentified Defense Ministry spokesperson]

[Text] The Defense Ministry reports the following: 1. On 23 March 1983 at 0930, in the border region of San Fernando and Jalapa, in Neuva Segovia Department, members of the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, intercepted a counterrevolutionary Somozist group coming from Honduran territory.

2. As a result of this armed attack, three EPS soldiers gave their lives heroically.

3. Our troops inflicted 12 dead on the Somozist enemy, and at the same time recovered the following war materiel: 15 FAL automatic rifles, 1 Chinese RPG-7 rocket launcher and several kilograms of C-4 plastic explosive.

4. EPS troops continue military operations to annihilate completely the remaining members of this counterrevolutionary unit. Managua, 23 March 1983 Public and Foreign Relations Department of the Defense Ministry

PAPER REPORTS 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' SURROUNDED

PA231941 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Sandinist Armed Forces are fighting counterrevolutionaries in Wiwili and Quilali. There have been more than 25 clashes since January, and over 200 casualties have been inflicted upon the former Somozist guards.

The Sandinist army inflicted over 56 casualties on the counterrevolutionaries in Cerro Blanco and Quilali, this morning's edition of BARRICADA reports. The report notes that since January there have been over 25 clashes in Quilali, Nueva Segovia Department, and Wiwili, Jinotega Department. More than 200 counterrevolutionaries have been killed in those clashes, including band chiefs identified as (Zimbad) and (El Cadejo). It has been reported that the Sandinist troops have surrounded the counterrevolutionaries, who are trying to escape from the area.

ANTI-SANDINIST LEADER PREDICTS FALL OF REGIME

PA232120 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1819 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 23 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- A leader of the rightwing force that invaded Nicaragua today predicted that the leftwing FSLN government in Managua would fall within the next 60 days.

In a broadcast from somewhere in Nicaragua that was monitored here, Fernando Chamorro Rapaccioli said that "within 60 days we will be celebrating in free territory."

The Managua government claims that the invasion by 1,400 Nicaraguan exiles from Honduras was planned by the United States. The Nicaraguan authorities reported yesterday that Honduran troops had attacked a Nicaraguan border post in keeping with a U.S. plan to provoke a total war between the two countries. This was the first mention of a direct military action by Honduran troops since Nicaragua confirmed on Monday that it had been invaded.

Meanwhile, Carlos Flores, visiting Honduran secretary of the presidential office, described the leftwing government of Nicaragua as a threat to peace in Central America and asked that the internal security of Honduras and Costa Rica be strengthened "above all to safeguard our democratic systems."

Flores, the leader of a top-level Honduran delegation, held talks last night with President Luis Alberto Monge and told newsmen that the Nicaraguan Government seeks to destabilize the democracies of the region, "which is why we must march united to face this threat," he said.

Flores denied Nicaraguan charges that rightwing exiles are armed and trained in Honduras, or that Honduras was acting as an instrument of the United States to overthrow the Sandinist government. At the same time, he dismissed the fear of a possible war between Honduras and Nicaragua.

Flores said that the Nicaraguan leaders need to maintain a permanent climate of tension in order to remain in power and obtain foreign aid to become the most powerful army in Central America.

Chamorro Rapaccioli, the leader of the rightwing guerrillas, said in a statement broadcast on a rebel radio station that his invading forces had downed a helicopter in Jinotega Province. He said that his forces had also killed 63 Sandinist soldiers in recent actions in Esquipulas and Matagalpa, 200 km from Managua. Chamorro Rapaccioli did not indicate when the fighting occurred.

Since it announced the invasion on Monday, the Nicaraguan Government has given scant details of the fighting, which according to reports was the most intense since the civil war in Nicaragua ended in July 1979.

The Nicaraguan leaders said in thier announcement that the rightwing guerrillas sustained 205 dead and 104 wounded, while Sandinist casualties were 57 dead and 40 wounded. The rightwing guerrillas claimed to have killed or wounded more than 300 Nicaraguan soldiers in clashes on various fronts, including an area some 96 km from Managua.

EFE CLAIMS ISRAELIS INVOLVED IN INVASION

FL232345 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] According to reports from the Spanish News agency EFE, Israeli officers are taking part in the combat operaions on the side of the Somozistas that have invaded Nicaragua. The news agency gave no details of the Israeli involvement or how it had obtained the information.

Israel, acting on behalf of Washington, presently supplies reactonary governments in Central America, in particular Honduras, with modern arms ammunition. Israel also has military advisors stationed in Honduras, the territory from where the invasion of Nicaragua was launched. The [word indistinct] press has also disclosed that a military training center has been set up in Honduras with Israeli assistance.

VICTOR HUGO TINOCO'S SECURITY COUNCIL SPEECH

PA240227 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2326 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Speech by Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco before the UN Security Council on 23 March -- recorded]

[Text] Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, approximately 1 year ago, on 25 March 1982, this August Security Council heard an important and historic speech by Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, regarding the aggressive activites against the Sandinist people's revolution and the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction by the U.S. Administration using counterrevolutionary gangs.

Today, almost 12 months later, the Nicaraguan people are facing a new escalation of aggression from the U.S. Administration. On this occasion it is expressed in the massive infiltration of military units and task forces [preceding two words given in English], to state it in the appropriate language, of Somozist counterrevolutionaries from Honduran territory.

Mr Chairman, the history of aggressions that the Sandinist revolution has been experiencing in the past 2 years is well known by the international community, and has been extensively disseminated by the international information media.

The existence and operation of counterrevolutionary camps in Honduran territory along the whole border with Nicaragua has been the subject of extensive reports, both written and filmed, that bear witness to the reality of this counterrevolutionary activity. It is also well known by everyone present here, Mr Chairman, that the activities of these counterrevolutionary elements had, until very recently, been characterized by a series of military sabotage and terrorist actions, expressed basically in attacks against the civilian population, towns and military posts along the common border between Honduras and Nicaragua.

The beginning of 1982, when the U.S. CIA decided to establish the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, with the objective of congregating and grouping the counterrevolutionary elements -- both the career soldiers of the Somozist National Guard as well as other sectors -- and give them through this organization a central leadership under the guidance of this U.S. intelligencey agency, marked the start of the first stage of a more accelerated and systematic development of the counterrevolutionary activity against the Sandinist people's revolution.

In the first phase of its development, the so-called Nicaraguan Democratic Force carried out a series of operations under U.S. guidance, consisting principally of sabotage actions and the blowing up of planes, such as the explosion of a terrorist bomb at the Cesar Augusto Sandino International Airport in Managua, which killed three Nicaraguan immigration officials, and the blowing up of two bridges along the Nicaraguan-Honduran border.

Concurrently, and over a period of time, military structures were created on Honduran territory with the cooperation of Honduran military sectors until a real army was formed, ominous and reactionary, with the necessary logistical support to sustain military operations and in general maintain structures that can carry out regular and irregular warfare actions against Nicaragua, and these began to operate in a systematic fashion.

From January 1982 until October of the same year, a very important role was played by the counterrevolutionary training camps operating in the United States, specifically in Florida, Texas and California. Ignoring and mocking its own laws and the neutrality act, the U.S. Administration is promoting the massive training of Somozist counterrevolutionaries on various private properties in Florida and the other states listed, alleging that since the activities are taking place on private property, they do not violate international or U.S. laws. On these activities, Mr Chairman, there are films and various written and photographic documentation.

Between July and October 1982 there began the massive transfer of the newly retrained soldiers -- because they were career soldiers in the Somozist army -- from Florida to the counterrevolutionary camps located in Honduras along the Nicaraguan border.

In the last quarter of 1982, attempts were made to establish settlements in the area of Jinotega and northern Zelaya, concurrently with a series of coordinated and systematic harassment attacks along the border using increasingly sophisticated weapons. In November 1982, there was an increase in the infiltrations from Honduras with the objective of sabotaging Nicaragua's agricultural production, and an attempt was made to occupy Jalapa, which is very close to the Honduran border. This plan was a resounding failure due to the economic and military mobilization of the Nicaraguan people. I would like to point out that Nicaragua's domestic production of principal export products has reached the highest levels in the revolution's history, in spite of these plans.

Following this resounding failure of the counterrevolutionary forces, the CIA implemented the so-called plan C, which provides for accelerated and increased logistical support to the counterrevolutionary forces, and a substantial increase in the efforts to kidnap and recruit more individuals for the counterrevolutionary forces.

The so-called Nicaraguan Democratic Force was reorganized under the guidance of the CIA, in which the FDN was established as a political organization with a general staff and special forces.

It was not until the eve of 1983 that the initial serious or large-scale infiltration and settlement attempts were made by the first Somozist counterrevolutionary units on Nicaraguan territory. Attempts were then made by those forces to settle in the areas of (Huina), Wiwili, and Nueva Segovia, in northern Nicaragua, very close to the Honduran border. Nevertheless, after a few days, these efforts were smashed by the Sandinist militias and the Sandinist People's Army.

Mr Chairman, the new state, the new escalation in this history of aggression by the U.S. Administration against the Nicaraguan people and government began at the beginning of this year, 1983, through a systematic process of concentrating the counterrevolutionary forces that had been dispersed in the different camps along the border between Nicaragua and Honduras. This concentration took place at two principal points. One concentration point of the Somozist troops was located in Honduras across the border from Jalapa. The other concentration point was also located in Honduras, near Puerto Cabezas [Nicaragua], on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast.

It was after this strategic concentration of troops that the U.S. CIA ordered the Somozist lackeys and murderers to infiltrate our territory. This process of infiltration began in February 1983 with small military units, and approximately 2,000 managed to get into Nicaragua. Of these 2,000 troops coming from the concentration area across from Jalapa in Honduras a large number remained in the mountainous area of Nicaragua, very close to Honduras. A very small number of these

troops, organized in gangs of 100 men, came deeper into Nicaragua and reached the area of Matagalpa, near Rio Blanco. At the same time, it should be pointed out that the counterrevolutionary forces camped near Puerto Cabezas, in Honduran territory -- this was the second point of concentration that I mentioned, of approximately 2,500 men -- met objective difficulties in carrying out their plans for massive infiltration concurrently with the forces infiltrated at Jinotega and Nueva Segovia; that is, there was no coordination in the infiltration of the forces coming from the two strategic staging areas.

The difficulty for the counterrevolutionary forces occurred when approximately 3 weeks ago the task force [preceding two words in English] of approximately 300 men selected as the vanguard of all the forces was discovered and surrounded by Sandinist militias and the Sandinist People's Army, which inflicted a resounding defeat on and completely smashed those forces, that is, the vanguard.

This military failure of the counterrevolutionary forces' vanguard on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua has been instrumental in obstructing, so far, the infiltration plans of the forces staged in that area. We want to emphasize that the approximate total of the forces staged in Honduras across from northeastern Nicaragua, that is, on the Atlantic coast, is estimated at a bit more than 2,500 men, the majority of them, as I said before, career soldiers, members of the genocidal Somozist guards, members of the elite troops of the Basic Infantry Training School, which was a special corps trained to repress the people.

It is important to reaffirm that the work of the Somozist military forces that infiltrated Nicaraguan territory was directed principally toward civilian objectives. In their military activities they have not been able to occupy even one town, not even the smallest village, and their tactical military initiative was severely restricted, or was nonexistent. Their counterrevolutionary activity has been directed toward defenseless and unarmed civilian objectives, and their characteristic crimes, especially those of the reduced force operating in the area of Matagalpa, have been murder and cutting the throats of defenseless peasants and adult education teachers living in the area.

Mr Chairman, no Nicaraguan is surprised by the genocidal and criminal attitude of the Somozist guards. The Somozist guards who have massively infiltrated our country from Honduras are the same practitioners of genocide whom our people defeated on 19 July 1979 and who escaped to Honduras. They are the same criminals who bombarded and destroyed our five principal cities in Nicaragua. They are the same criminals who murdered and massacred defenseless peasants throughout the existence of the Somozist dictatorship. They are the same criminals who made thousands of youths disappear from Nicaraguan cities, many of whose bodies appeared later in common graves within the confines of the Somozist military garrisons.

Those who are today killing and cutting the throats of peasants are the same ones who murdered the revolutionaries and threw them into the volcanos with unusual fury. Mr Chairman, the Nicaraguan people have no possibility of mistaking them.

The U.S. Government, which nursed and fed this dictatorship and benefited from its traitorous nature for its own economic gain, is today behind the new aggressions and behind the suffering to which the Nicaraguan people are again being subjected. Those Somozist gangs exist only because they are financed, trained and led by U.S. Government institutions that use them as an instrument of their policy in the region.

Mr Chairman, at this time it is necessary to define clearly and state the feelings of the junta of the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction and the national directorate of the FSLN on the present situation. We want to state clearly that we do not consider this counterrevolutionary force infiltrated into Nicaragua or the other 2,500 men who may eventually be infiltrated on the Atlantic coast a threat in themselves against the revolutionary power's stability in our country. These forces will be militarily defeated in the near future and have already been surrounded and pursued by the Sandinist militias and the Sandinist People's Army, but that is not all. They have in fact been politically defeated, because they represent the scum that caused the historic suffering of our people.

In the opinion of the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction, the danger does not reside in these counterrevolutionary forces in themselves or by themselves, the majority of which have remained behind in the mountainous areas of Nicaragua, near the Honduran border. The danger resides in the fact that -- and this is very serious -- the actions of these Somozist forces in central and northern Nicaragua could represent secondary actions to facilitate the dealing of more strategic blows against the Nicaraguan Revolution in other areas that are economically, politically and militarily more sensitive, such as the Nicaraguan Pacific coast bordering on Honduras.

In this respect we want to call attention to the fact that practically all or a large part of the Somozist forces are already involved in the aggressive plans in the northern part of the country and in the infiltration plans in the northeast. Therefore, any more strategic military blows against our revolution on the Pacific coast would necessarily have to be dealt by forces other than the Somozists.

We are thinking of the possibility that the Honduran Army and other forces in the region might be pressured and pushed into becoming more deeply and directly involved against the Sandinist revolution.

Concerning this, we would like to draw the distinguished Security Council members' attention to four specific developments that strengthen these fears -- expressed by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, but also shared by other distinghished Latin American leaders -- about the potential danger inherent in a situation such as this.

First, the fact that some 1,500 or more men of the infiltrated forces are in the border zone increases the possibility that during the fight between the Sandinist forces and the reactionary elements, the Honduran Army's military units might become involved in the conflict either voluntarily or involuntarily. Mr Chairman, we believe that for the enemy forces this would be a very convenient pretext for launching a speedy escalation of the Honduran Army's participation in this counterrevolutionary activity.

Second, we have the fact that the Honduran Army is concentrating troops in Honduran territory at the rearguard of the Somozist bands' activity, in the Jalapa area.

Third, we have the fact that the Honduran Army is also concentrating troops in the Choluteca area, on Honduran territory, which borders on the most strategic and sensitive zones of Nicaragua's Pacific area.

Fourth, specific developments have been taking place in recent hours that confirm our fears about the Honduran Army's possible role:

Late yesterday, more specifically at 1606, Honduran soldiers posted in (La Loma de los Pastores), in Honduran territory, 1.5 km southwest of Santo Tomas de Nance, attacked the Vado Ancho observation post, located 2 km southwest of Santo Tomas de Nance, using rifles, 81-mm mortars and 50-cal machineguns.

At 1735 on the same day, Honduran troops again attacked this observation post.

In line with this logic, at 0900 yesterday, in the Palo Verde zone, in Honduran territory, west of Santo Tomas de Nance, the Honduran Army made a mass display of military forces, in what constituted an offensive attitude, a scant 800 meters from the Nicaraguan border. Concerning this, we have already lodged a protest note with the distinguished Honduran Government.

Mr Chairman: The U.S. Administration's responsibility in the potential danger threatening Central American peace cannot be concealed. The political will and determination of the current U.S. Administration's major leaders to overthrow Nicaragua's revolutionary junta and to destroy the Sandinist people's revolution by using all the means at their disposal is undeniable. Suffice it to recall some of the elements pointing precisely to the basis and history of this strange, systematic and vehement persecution and relentless pursuit of the Sandinist people's revolution.

Back on 15 July 1980, in the text approved by the national convention in Detroit, the Republican Party, in its political platform for the election, clearly, brazenly and, finally, in an unprecedented manner, stated, and I quote: We deplore the seizure of Nicaragua by the Marxist Sandinists. We do not support U.S. aid for any Marxist government in this hemisphere and we oppose the Carter administration's aid program for the Nicaraguan Government. However, we will support the Nicaraguan people's efforts to establish an independent and free government. End of quote.

Mr Chairman: That was the prelude, the programmatic expression of the ultraright's will and determination to put an end to the Sandinist people's revolution. From that point on, and since the Reagan administration took office, a number of hostile stands against the Nicaraguan Government have been adopted in all areas.

One of the first foreign policy activities carried out by the current U.S. Administration consisted of cutting off the remaining economic aid for Nicaragua approved by the Carter administration. A number of other policies were implemented later in the economic, diplomatic and military areas that were intended to undermine the Nicaraguan revolution's existence.

Financially and economically, numerous maneuvers were undertaken to block pending loans in various international forums and organizations, both at the IDB and the World Bank.

The various stages through which the CIA's military destabilization plans against Nicaragua evolved -- which we have already narrated -- also began at this point: from the first counterrevolutionary paramilitary bands that began operating in the country, to the training camps in Florida, to the current grave situation, which threatens the Central American region with this new policy that fosters the infiltration of Somozist bands in our country.

Mr Chairman: Certain very recent statements by various U.S. officials can help us understand how the current U.S. Administration plans to face Central America's problems and how it is focusing its policy toward Nicaragua.

Basically, we might say that that which was contained in the Republican platform in July 1980 has not changed one iota. On the contrary, the gravity of the measures has been intensified.

In his message to the Panamanian president, President Ronald Reagan stated: We offer a comprehensive regional rapprochement in the search for peace, democracy and development in Central America. Unfortunately, these principles are not shared by all. Nor is it our commitment to trust peaceful means in resolving international domestic disputes. End of quote.

On 22 February of this year, President Reagan addressing war veterans said, and I quote: Central America is too close to us, and our strategic interest in the Caribbean navigation channels and the Panama Canal is too big for us to ignore reality. The specter of governments controlled by Marxist-Leninists in Central America with political and ideological loyalties toward Cuba and the Soviet Union is a direct challenge that we must answer. End of quote.

According to LATIN-REUTER, Thomas O. Enders, under secretary of state for Latin American affairs, said on 21 February 1982, and I quote: It must be made very clear that if the Soviet Union and Cuba, either jointly or separately, seek to turn Nicaragua into the same type of threat that Cuba became after the revolution, the United States will certainly take actions to keep this from happening. End of quote.

In its 17 February 1983 edition, THE MIAMI HERALD refers to a presentation in Congress by CIA Chief William Casey during which he said [as heard], and I quote: Casey asked Congress to continue supplying funds until 1984 to finance the controversial covert operation against Nicaragua. The U.S. role is still limited to providing advice and financial aid to the anti-Sandinist forces currently in Honduras so they can stage attacks against Nicaragua. End quotation from THE MIAMI HERALD, which in turn quotes William Casey's statements.

According to the official news bulletin put out by the U.S. Embassy in Managua -- we don't know if they have the same bulletin for the rest of Latin America -- dated 4 March 1983, President Reagan's speech to the Commonwealth Club members in San Francisco is quoted, and I quote now: The threat is greater for the entire region and for the Western Hemisphere than for any single country. If they grow strong with Nicaragua beside them; if the Salvadoran Government falls as a result of the guerrillas' armed violence, I think that Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama and all those nations would follow the same path. End of quote.

The official news bulletin put out by the U.S. Embassy on 11 March 1983 quotes President Reagan's address on 10 March 1983 to the National Manufacturers Association, where he said, and I quote: The Central American nations are among our closest neighbors. El Salvador, for instance, is closer to Texas than Texas is to Massachusetts. Central America is very near, and the strategic interests involved are too important to ignore the danger posed by an assumption of power by governments that maintain ideological and military ties with the Soviet Union. End of quote.

The quote in this bulletin continues: Half of all the foreign trade toward the United States goes through the canal or through some other maritime routes in the Caribbean, enroute to or from our ports. We have taken too long in realizing that the defense of both the Caribbean and Central America against a power play by Marxist-Leninists is vital to our national security in a way that we are not accustomed to considering. End of quote.

Mr Chairman: Our Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction is serenely facing this new situation that the Nicaraguan revolution currently confronts as a result of the aggressive escalation against our revolution. The domestic political, material and military measures needed to guarantee the dismembering and failure of the aggressors' plans are already underway. The Nicaraguan People's support for these measures is enthusiastic, and the Nicaraguan masses' participation in the militias and in the reserve battalions is massive, even more so than in the past. Concerning this, the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction has clearly reaffirmed that all the measures adopted to confront the Somozist aggression sponsored by the United States are intended to protect the Nicaraguan people's supreme interests and to preserve the framework of public and civic freedoms that has characterized our pluralist process of mixed economy.

Despite the aggression and the intentions of alien forces, the government junta has specifically called for the maintenance of the framework of political pluralism. It has also reiterated the right to strengthen our defense lines to the extent that circumstances demand it. Finally, it has clearly indicated that the defense of the Nicaraguan revolution and of Nicaragua's territorial integrity will be carried out with determination and energy within and up to the limits of our own territory. This has been specified to indicate clearly that any internationalization of the conflict at the border area between Honduras and Nicaragua will result from the provocations and the premeditation of the international reactionary forces currently maneuvering against Nicaragua.

We wish to draw the Security Council members' attention to the fact that, at its various levels -- both at the special Coordinating Bureau ministerial meeting held in January 1983 in Managua, and at the summit of chiefs of state or government held in New Delhi, India, this year -- the Nonaligned Movement has warned against the continuation of aggressive actions, offensives and efforts to destabilize the Sandinist revolution and has called for an end to these attempts. The chiefs of state or government urged the U.S. Administration to adopt a constructive attitude and asked the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau to follow closely and attentively the development of the actions and aggressions against Nicaragua.

Mr Chairman: There are still grounds for the fears expressed by the Nicaraguan revolution concerning a possible internationalization of the area's conflict. We wish to disclose that we have received recent military reports from the concentration of counterrevolutionary forces that still are in Honduran territory that they intend, in the next few days, to launch actions in three directions into our territory. One of these actions is aimed at the zone of Jalapa, Nueva Segovia and Teotecacinte in the central part of the country, that is, a reinforcement of the counterrevolutionary forces already in that zone; the second action is aimed in the direction of the Nicaraguan gold mines located in the northeastern zone of the country; and the third, toward the area of Puerto Cabezas in the zone of the Nicaraguan Mosquitia.

We also wish to report that very worrisome intelligence reports indicate that in the counterrevolutionary general headquarters in Mocoron, in the Atlantic zone, in Trojes, in the central zone of Jalapa; and in El Paraiso, in the zone more to the Pacific -- all in Honduran territory -- there is hectic activity by the Somozist guardsmen and their advisers, who will try to introduce in the coming days approximately -- according to the latest reports from our military intelligence -- some 4,000 men into Nicaraguan territory.

Mr President, our participation in this meeting has been to ask the U.S. Government to stop its aggressive actions against our country; to stop the attempts to overthrow the revolutionary government and destroy the Sandinist people's revolution; to stop all the hostile maneuvers and military measures; to stop the secret but well-known war that the Reagan administration is waging against our country; to stop the causes of the suffering and pain of our people.

We urge the United States not to continue ignoring the peace proposals that the countries of Latin America and countries outside the region are making. We urge the United States to review its policy and give up its military and warmongering line of solutions to the Central American crisis. We urge the United States to reconsider serenely the historical responsibility that its position and power demands -- all the peace proposals submitted, for example, by the governments of Mexico and Venezuela to try and find a solution to the border problem between Honduras and Nicaragua, and proposals like the one issued at Contadora Island in January of this year by the governments of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama, which stress the main and most significant aspects of the Central American crisis, in search of peaceful and practical negotiated solutions.

We appeal to the members of the UN Security Council and to the international community to make efforts so that in a coordinated way, we can carry out in the Central American area a policy leading to peaceful negotiated solutions.

Meanwhile, Nicaragua reiterates its willingness to hold a dialogue on the Central American peoblem, to start discussing immediately the problems and differences following the military actions in the northern zone along the border with Honduras and its positive and open attitude toward any form of peaceful solution to the crisis in the Central American area.

Finally, Mr President, but of great importance for the future, peace and lives of more than 20 million Central Americans, we exhort the international community to watch and to be on the alert regarding the ominous attempts of international reactionary forces that are trying to turn the conflict along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border into a major aggression of a strategic nature against the Sandinist people's revolution. Thank you, Mr President.

VEIGA READS REPORT AT CTC COUNCIL MEETING

FL231717 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Roberto Veiga, secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC], read the main report at the 46th meeting of the CTC National Council, held at the Palace of Workers yesterday. In this report he stated that we must reinforce our union support for the effort that is being made to recover the losses suffered because of unfavorable climatic conditions earlier this year. He added that we must fight tirelessly to recover whatever is useful.

In a 54-page document, Veiga discussed the main aspects of the country's labor activities and critically analyzed the union efforts during 1982. He described 1982 as a year of victory and a period in which the country, amid great tensions, knew how to face up to and overcome many difficulties.

According to the report, only greater efficiency in the use of economic resources and an unselfish and constant effort by the workers could have resulted in the overfulfillment of the single plan for social and economic development amid an adverse international economic situation. He mentioned the achievements of the past sugar harvest, the voluntary mobilizations and their results. He also discussed the problems of safety and health and praised the work of the country's innovators and efficiency experts.

The document expressed firm support for the resolution of the Central Committee's sixth plenum and the determination of the labor movement to work with devotion, perseverance and the spirit of sacrifice to comply with all the tasks.

Veiga referred to the adverse climatic situation and called for increased efforts to overcome difficulties in all areas. Now we have to take advantage of every possibility that the weather offers to grind at full capacity in every mill. This is the only way to fight to attenuate the large losses we have suffered, he said. Veiga also referred to the labor movement's achievements in the country's defense.

[Begin Veiga recording] In the face of the aggressive, selfish and greedy policy of U.S. imperialism, our people are firmly preparing themselves to resist and crush any imperialist adventure and to defend the revolution until the last drop of blood. Our labor movement continues to support the efforts to increase the level of organization and optimum development of the territorial militias and the constant effort to improve the capability for mobilization and combat readiness of the FAR and Interior Ministry. [end recording]

EDITORIAL URGES RECOVERY FROM WEATHER LOSSES

FL231449 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Titled "The Natural Phenomena Which Have Affected Us and the Need to Struggle Resolutely to Overcome the Losses," the daily GRANMA publishes a frontpage editorial in today's edition.

After referring to the damages caused to western and central provinces, the editorial notes that the frequency of rains since January has systematically upset all agricultural tasks and, at the same time, there have been repeated floods in already rain-soaked areas. GRANMA adds that in accordance with available data, we are witnessing not the coldest winter but the wettest ever recorded by our country in the last 40 or 50 years.

On another subject, it adds that it is not only a matter of the magnitude of the rains and the many times they have fallen in recent times, but the fact that they have been associated with severe and unusual storms for this time of the year.

All these disturbances have been accompanied by strong winds, tornados, hailstorms and even violent penetrations by the sea along the northern coast, which have caused considerable damage to Havana City. This last phenomenon, GRANMA adds, was made up of swells associated with strong and sustained winds blowing in the Gulf of Mexico, which formed waves 5 or more meters high. The tornado of 16 March, which touched down in the area of Mariel, possibly was one of the worse ever to hit our country. That tornado caused considerable material losses and crushed enormous metal high-voltage towers as if they were made out of paper, damaging the economy and injuring many people.

All these phenomena, according to studies conducted by official institutions, are the result of natural causes. As a result of all this, Cuba has been exposed to situations more common in latitudes higher than ours, particularly to systems of low extratropical pressures, which have generated consecutively and at times simultaneously in the Gulf of Mexico.

It must be emphasized, GRANMA stresses in its frontpage editorial, that the previously mentioned factors still exist: The rains are continuing and, so far, it is impossible to predict when normal conditions for this time of year will resume.

After enumerating the damages caused to the principal livestock-agricultural and industrial installations, GRANMA states that these difficulties occur precisely at a time when Cuba is making a gigantic and successful effort to overcome the financial problems derived from the low price of sugar in the so-called world market. It is a setback that occurs when we have just achieved the refinancing requested for part of our foreign debt and when, as never before, it is important to ensure the highest earning of freely convertible currency, savings and efficiency in all areas of the economy, GRANMA adds.

Of course, this is not a time for useless lamenting, the organ of Party Central Committee stresses, this is a time of tension for all forces in the country, of valiant and heroic struggle in the face of difficulties, as has been demonstrated by our workers and the people in general during the past 3 months.

After referring in great detail to all the measures adopted in the affected provinces to overcome the effects of the bad weather, GRANMA stresses: We will confront the setback and defeat it, and the imperialist enemy must not draw the wrong conclusions and should not rush to rub his hands together because of this difficulty. We will come out of this stronger and more hardened than before. What we are enduring equals or is even worse than the effects of a Flora [referring to Hurrican Flora]. In the economy, however we are not the Cuba of 20 years ago. We have infrastructure, development, organization, cadres, experience and the energy of conscious and industrious people to face up to any calamity.

Finally, the GRANMA editorial emphasizes: As if we were in a war, let us all mobilize to fulfill our duties with exactitude and courage, and once more we will demonstrate what our heroic, combative, revolutionary and internationalist people can do. Once more, let us transform the setback inco victory.

COMMUNIQUE ON MALMIERCA'S VISIT TO HUNGARY

For the Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP version of the communique on the visit of Isidoro Malmierca, minister of foreign relations of the Republic of Cuba, to Hungary from 13 to 16 March, see the Hungarian section of the 24 March issue of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

MINISTERS TO PROBE BANANA PRICING IN UK MARKET

FL231955 Bridgetown CANA in English 1843 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 23, CANA -- Agriculture ministers from Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia and St Vincent have decided to set up a committee comprising officials of the Windward Islands Banana Association (Winban) and agricultural technicians to look into the pricing of bananas from the four islands on the United Kingdom market, according to Dominica's agriculture minister, Heskieth Alexander. He said today that the ministers had made the decision during a meeting in St Lucia last weekend, after St Lucia's prime minister, John Compton, had called for an urgent meeting between the British and the four Windward Islands' governments to devise a strategy for the survival and economic viability of the industry.

Mr Alexander said that the committee would prepare a paper which "will be submitted to Windward Islands member governments and will provide briefs for a meeting of governments of these islands in anticipation of the request by Mr Compton to the British Government (being accepted by Whitefall)." Mr Alexander said that Winban had also been asked to prepare a paper on a report of a committee headed by Dr Bernard Yankey of the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), which looked into the question of the contract arrangements for the sale of Windward Island fruits on the United Kingdom market.

Mr Alexander said that the CDB would assist Winban in preparing the paper, which will be circulated to ministers for discussion before May. On the issue of the price paid to growers for bananas sold, Mr Alexander said the meeting found that production costs were much higher than this. He said that while Dominica's growers receive 11.5 cents (1 EC dollar; 37 cents U.S.) per pound for bananas sold, products costs were estimated at 18 cents per pound.

BAHAMAS

ADDERLEY OPENS UN CONFERENCE ON DRUG SMUGGLING

FL231315 Bridgetown CANA in English 2156 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, March 22, CANA-REUTER -- Law enforcement officials from 13 English-speaking Caribbean nations are attending a U.N.-sponsored conference on drug smuggling, opened here today by Bahamian External Affairs Minister Paul Adderley. Mr Adderley called on countries that are sources for drugs or provide the illegal markets to share the burden of combatting the drug trade with "transit nations" like the Bahamas.

The damage caused to the Bahamas by trafficking was "considerable and continues to increase," Mr Adderley said. "Our neighbours are experiencing similar difficulties."

An official of the U.N. division on narcotic drugs, which organised the eight-day seminar, most of which will be in private, cited U.N. figures showing a 125 per cent increase in heroin seizures worldwide between 1980-1981. There was a 12,000 per cent increase in LSD seizures and a 900 per cent rise in the seizure of qualude tablets in the same period. Mostly due to increased flow, the official said. The Caribbean was "one of the worst affected areas."

Conference discussions will focus on the specific problems of "transit nations," action against smuggling by sea and air and basic issues of law enforcement techniques, sources said.

The conference is being attended by police and defence force officers, customs and immigration officials from Anguilla, the Bahamas, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the British Virgin Islands. Specialists from Britain, Canada, the United States and Interpol are present as observers.

GRENADA

COAST GUARD DETAINS VENEZUELAN FISHING TRAWLER

FL232330 St George Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] A fishing trawler flying the Venezuelan flag was intercepted by the Grenada Coast Guard early last Sunday morning. RFG [Radio Free Grenada] News understands that at the time of the interception the Piocho 801 was about 3 miles off the north coast of the isle (ronde), towards the northern area of mainland Grenada. Reports say that a crew of 20, including the captain, were on board at the time. Four members of the crew are Venezuelan citizens and the others Koreans. None of the men speak English. An official release says the Piocho 801 was apparently engaged in fishing in Grenada's territorial waters when it was intercepted. There are about 28 tons of fish on board and a quantity of (?live) bait, or small fish, kept in the trawler's water tanks. The trawler is now anchored in the inner harbor pending investigations. RFG News also understands that Venezuelan Embassy in St Georges is looking after the interests of the crew.

EXERCISE VIEWED AS ATTACK ON NICARAGUAN REGIME

FL231910 Bridgetown CANA in English 1833 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, March 23, CANA -- The Grenada Peace Council today linked the recent North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) naval exercise in the Caribbean to what it said was U.S.-based efforts to topple the leftist Nicaraguan Government.

"We view the present military and naval maneuvers in the Caribbean by the United States with a force of several thousand military personnel, over 300 aircraft -- some of them nuclear-equipped -- and 77 warships as an exercise directly related and planned to coincide with the attack on Nicaragua...." The council said in a statement.

It also charged that the U.S. presence in the region was a "calculated measure to covertly back up the invading forces as well as to baulk any assistance to Nicaragua from foreign friendly countries." The NATO exercises involved ships, aircraft and personnel from countries including the United States and Britain. The council also commented on President Reagan's recent claim that the Soviet Union was building up Grenada's arms supply, in a strategy that threatened the United States' secuirty. The council said it considered the President's statement "not merely as a threat of aggression, but one tantamount to a planned military or other attack against the Grenadian people."

Solidarity Rally

FL240015 St Georges Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Hundreds of Grenadians took part in a street march in solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution this afternoon. RFG's [Radio Free Grenada] (Marvis Alexis) attended the march and filed this story for the major news tonight.

[Begin reporter's recording] The march which began in front of [word indistinct] House on the (Caron Arch), was accompanied by the police band. Hundreds of Grenadian workers, students, farmers and military personnel joined the march as it went up two streets on the [words indistinct] Street, down (?Market) Place, Granville Street, [word indistinct] Street, on to Melville Street to Grand View Street, up (?Canarsie) and down Young Street and back to the (Caron Arch). Banners, placards and posters were carried while other workers read their (?views) expressing their solidarity with Nicaragua. The march culminated in front of [word indistinct] House, where slogans such as: Let's weep for Reagan [words indistinct].

JAMAICA

THIRD WORLD GROUP DRAFTING SEA LAW DECLARATION

FL240050 Bridgetown CANA in English 2352 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 23, CANA -- Third World nations were tonight drafting a declaration that will call on the international community to avoid selective application of the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention and insisting on the integrity of the treaty, diplomats here said.

The U.N.'s Third World caucus, the Group of 77, today appointed a 12-member working party, with representation from each of its three geographical regions to draft the declaration as well as to draw up guidelines for the structure and functions of the Preparatory Commission of the International Seabed Authority now into its second week of its sessions in Kingston.

The declaration for which the developing countries will seek the support of Eastern and Western Europe is clearly aimed at the United States, which recently declared a 200-mile exclusive economic zone, affecting mainland USA as well as its territories in the Caribbean and the Pacific. The concept of a 200-mile exclusive economic zone is in keeping with the UN's Law of the Sea Convention which Washington and a few other Western powers have refused to sign because of disagreement with the provisions dealing with the exploitation of the deep seabed outside the territorial limits.

"The declaration will insist on the integrity of the convention and attempt to discourage others from going the way of the United States," one Caribbean delegate said. But the drafting of the declaration is secondary to continued attempts here to produce a chairman for the preparatory commission, other memebers of the bureau as well as the framework within which they will carry through their functions. The process has been slow because some delegations insist that the selection of the preparatory commission's chairman, those of subsidiary groups and the ground rules for their work ought to be taken as a single package, plus the fact that the aim is for decision on the basis of consensus.

MANLEY CHARGES SEAGA ADMINISTRATION HIDES FACTS

FL231250 Bridgetown CANA in English 2252 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 22, CANA -- Former Jamaica Prime Minister Michael Manley has accused the Edward Seaga government of hiding the true facts surrounding the two-tiered currency exchange system introduced there in January. Speaking in a television interview here last night, Mr Manley, whose government lost power in 1981, said that the new system was not an attempt to devalue the Jamaica currency but rather "a way of trying to keep the people from understanding that a devaluation had taken place."

"Let us be very clear about that, because it has achieved a very substantial devaluation and was done for that precise purpose. But there was the political intentions in doing it in a way that it would not involve the actual use of the term," he said.

Jamaica on January 10 introduced a dual currency exchange rate under which its dollar is one case fixed at 1.78 Jamaica dollars for an American dollar, but this rate is applied only to "essential" imports, raw materials to be used in products to be sold abroad and for certain payments.

Other imports, including most of those from members of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom) of which Jamaica is a part, are at the more expensive parallel (unofficial) market rate set by individual commercial banks. Mr Manley is in Barbados to address a labour education workshop.

Mr Manley, who heads Jamaica's opposition People's National Party (PNP), said: "We felt very strongly that even if the government was entirely within its rights to decide that the way to handle the particular foreign exchange crises, we are very critical of the fact that the administration did not have private consultation with the opposition number prime ministers in the region...." [sentence as received]

He added ... "this would have avoided all the bad blood, all of the difficulties, all of the confusion, all of the setbacks to co-operation and the integration process." "I think that it was completely unnecessary to do it in that unilateral way that took the rest of the region by surprise even at the very highest level."

The new two-tiered currency exchange system has threatened a virtual trade war in Caricom as other member states contend that the Jamaica system has eroded their markets in that country, and that move was against the spirit of the treaty establishing Caricom.

Mr Manley, who was speaking in an wide-ranging interview, said that the present administration in Jamaica attaches far more importance to its relations with Washington than its ties with Caricom.

"I don't think that there is anything about that although they would deny it with appropriate rhetoric. But the facts are there and I think that the facts are obvious," he said.

SWAPO-ANC MISSION HOLDS DISCUSSIONS WITH PNP

FL232300 Bridgetown CANA in English 2118 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 23, CANA -- The secretary for legal affairs of the South West African Peoples Organisation (SWAPO), Hrenst Tjirange, and Professor Bernard Magubane, a member of the African National Congress (ANC) observer mission to the United Nations, held extensive discussions with representatives of Jamaica's opposition People's National Party (PNP) today, the PNP said. The PNP delegation, headed by General Secretary Dr Paul Robertson and Party Chairman Dudley Thompson, were brought up to date on the political struggles in South Africa and Namibia, the party said. Professor Magubane and Mr Tjirange are in Jamaica trying to get support for their struggles in southern Africa against the racist regime in Pretoria.

Professor Magubane, according to the PNP, said the ANC was now engaged in establishing itself in every district and household in South Africa and hitting back at the racist regime for raids in ANC strongholds. Mr Tjirange said that the war in Namibia had reached a stage where there could be no turning back.

He said that in many instances farmers had abandoned their farms and that this had affected the economy of South Africa.

Dr Robertson, speaking on behalf of the Jamaican party, spoke of the work now being carried out to rebuild after the 1980 general elections and said that the party was now engaged in developing an alternate economic plan. The PNP general secretary said that the party was engaged in meetings with various sectors of the society. Dr Robertson said further that the basic thrust of the party remained unchanged, although the party accepted that it made some mistakes when it was in government. He reaffirmed the support of the People's National Party for the liberation struggles of SWAPO and the ANC.

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

GOVERNOR LEITO SUBMITS RESIGNATION TO QUEEN

PA232334 Hilversum International Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Bernardito Leito, governor of the Netherlands Antilles, has submitted his resignation to Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. Leito, appointed governor in 1980, resigned because, according to him, he has fulfilled all of his objectives. He will temporarily replaced by (Bojean).

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

GOVERNMENT PLACES CARICOM IMPORTS UNDER LICENSE

FL230055 Bridgetown CANA in English 2325 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 22, CANA -- Trinidad and Tobago manufacturers have hailed government's decision to place the majority of imports from the rest of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) under license.

The move announced last Friday is seen as an attempt to appease local producers who complain that their exports have been placed at a price disadvantage by recent economic measures instituted by the Jamaica Government, while Jamaican imports are still competing with domestic goods on the home market.

"It would give government the opportunity to monitor what is happening to local manufacturers who are now unable to export and who at the same time are losing their home market," said Bruno Rivas, president of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association.

Industry and Commerce Minister Desmond Cartey in a brief statement to Parliament Friday said: "I am authorised by Cabinet to announce the following: The immediate extension of the import licensing regime (for monitoring purposes in the first instance) to make the importation of all goods from Caricom sources which are on the negative list subject to import licence and the notification of such action to the Caricom Secretariat (as provided for in the Caricom Treaty).

Cartey added: "I wish to add that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago remains ready as always to discuss with any of our Caricom partners our common economic difficulties and the best means of solving such difficulties in the furtherance of the objective of the Caricom Community as set out in the Chaguaramas Agreement of 1973." The Trinidad press quotes a ministry official as saying that about 75 percent of all Caricom imports will now be covered by the new licensing policy.

President of the Garment Manufacturers Association of Trinidad and Tobago, Matthew Gonzalves, has called for a ban on garment imports from Caricom countries, in addition to the new licensing arrangements for some other goods. Last week, the Trinidad and Tobago Businessmen's Association took a decision to boycott all trade with Jamaica.

Mr Gonzalves said that while he welcomed the move by government, he saw no need for the dialogue that the minister said he was willing to enter into with Trinidad's Caricom partners.

He charged that Trinidad has become a dumping ground for some of the lesser developed countries in the Caribbean, particularly for governments. He named Grenada and Antigua and Barbuda as some of the countries which have gone against the Caricom Agreement by importing clothes from the Far East, relabelling them to state that they were manufactured in those countries and then selling them duty-free in Trinidad. According to Mr Gonzalves this "corrupt practice" has been going on for several years and has involved these so-called manufacturers setting up small factories with few machines and workers in their countries as "fronts."

Mr Gonzalves also named Jamaica and Guyana as major violators of the Caricom Agreement. He said that immediately after the signing of the Caricom Treaty, both countries put all Caricom goods on a license basis. In Jamaica, he said, there was always a long delay in the supply of licenses, if any at all was given. If a company managed to get a license, there would be problems in getting payment for the goods delivered. Mr Gonzalves said that his company had ceased to sell to Jamaica since he had not been paid for a years worth of goods delivered.

In Guyana, Mr Gonzalves said, the company had not been able to sell one dollar worth of goods, since it has not been able to get import licenses from that country. Mr Gonzalves suggested that the Trinidad and Tobago Government set up a committee to monitor the licenses and garments of the Caricom countries as a means of stopping what he called "corrupt practices."

MEXICO

BARBADOS' ENERGY MINISTER ARRIVES FOR MEETING

FL231343 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0207 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Barbadian Energy Minister Claude Griffith has stated that the preferential oil prices that Mexico and Venezuela maintain for Central America and the Caribbean are extremely beneficial in the current economic crisis. Griffith said the San Jose Agreement that Mexico and Venezuela signed in Costa Rica constitutes a significant aid for these countries, including Barbados, whose economy is weak.

Barbados presently uses 16,000 barrels of Venezuelan oil per day. During his stay in Mexico, Griffith will seek a meeting with Energy and Mines Secretary Francisco Labastida Ochda in order to request the supply of Mexican oil. The Barbadian official was interviewed shortly after his arrival in this capital where he will attend a meeting of the Latin American Energy Organization to begin tomorrow with the participation of seven energy ministers from Central and South America.

PANAMA

PAREDES SAYS SCHOOL OF AMERICAS TO REVERT

PA231815 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Mar p 1-A

[By Migdalia Fuentes]

[Excerpts] Yesterday there were rumors in this capital about possible changes in the government. According to the rumors, the changes would be announced by General Ruben Dario Paredes in Coclecito. The announcement was not made. Instead, the commander of the National Guard told the news media that the School of the Americas, which operates under U.S. control in the canal area, will be turned over to Panama in 1984.

Paredes, who yesterday closed the 2,000-student Second Youth Group meeting organized by the National Guard, said that there is no reason why the School of the Americas should not be returned to Panama by that date (1984).

Referring to U.S. meddling in improving the Torrijos-Carter treaties, he said: "We really have had very little interference." He added that whenever this has been detected, it has been revealed.